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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

9 - 13 February, 1981

Meeting held at

John Knox Centre

Geneva, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

John Knox Centre
Geneva, Switzerland

9-13 February, 1981

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The opening service of worship, in the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre, was led by Prof. Sabev. The preacher was Ms. Webb. Morning worship on subsequent days was led by Mr. Ashmall, Mr. Gatu, Mr. Leite and Dr. Preus.

The meeting convened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 9 February. A message of greeting was received from the Swiss Protestant Church Federation.

During the meeting the Acting General Secretary presented Dr. Visser't Hooft with a copy of "Voices of Unity", the volume of essays prepared in honour of his 80th birthday.

On the evening of Wednesday, 11 February, participants joined members of the staff of the Ecumenical Centre at a concert given by Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand).

B. Roll call

The Acting General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies from Prof. Miguez-Bonino and the General Secretary. He conveyed warm greetings from Dr. Potter to the Committee.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at the John Knox Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 August 1980, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda

The Acting General Secretary introduced the draft agenda, which was adopted.

E. Membership of Sub-Committees

On behalf of the Officers, Dr. Raiser proposed that the new members of the Executive Committee be allocated to Sub-Committees as follows: Mr. Ashmall to Finance; Mr. Leite to Staffing and Nominations; Dr. Preus to Programme. The revised list of membership of Sub-Committees was agreed (Appendix II).

2. REPORT OF THE ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr. Raiser began by paying tribute to Suzanne de Diétrich who had died on 24 January, a few days before her 90th birthday. She had personified the biblical renewal and had formed generations of biblically literate students and leaders in France, at the Ecumenical Institute and around the world.

Dr. Visser't Hooft added that Suzanne de Diétrich had also been one of the pioneers in establishing relations between the ecumenical movement and the Roman Catholic Church. He paid tribute to three other ecumenical pioneers, all born 100 years ago: Abbé Couturier, Cardinal Béa and Pastor Marc Boegner.

A. World events since Central Committee, August 1980

Dr. Raiser said that the world situation since August 1980 had been characterised by a number of intensified conflicts, by high expectations and intense frustrations about international negotiations, and by increased anxiety about the maintenance of world peace. Among the areas of conflict and tension, the war between Iran and Iraq, the civil war in El Salvador, and the events in Poland had received constant world attention. In November 1980 cables had been sent to the authorities in El Salvador requesting them to clarify the circumstances surrounding the deaths of three prominent citizens, as well as to the UN Secretary-General and to the General Secretary of the Organization of American States, asking them to use their influence and authority to investigate reports of institutional violence in the country. CICARWS had issued an appeal for support for humanitarian aid inside El Salvador and for work among refugees in Central America and Mexico.

Three major international conferences had been held: a) the Helsinki follow-up Conference in Madrid, which had so far failed to achieve tangible results on questions of disarmament; b) the UN Special Session on Development, which had not agreed an international development strategy for the Third UN Development Decade; c) the pre-implementation talks on Namibia arranged by the UN, which had broken down over the refusal by South Africa to negotiate. The talks had been

closely monitored by a team from the WCC and LWF and a dossier of material had been prepared. Dr. Raiser also referred to the change in the United States Administration which had come at a time of increased anxieties about the maintenance of world peace. Concern for peace had become a focal point of discussion in many European churches.

B. Relationships with member churches

Africa: There had been a meeting with representatives of Councils of Churches in Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa and Namibia in September which had considered future ecumenical strategy with regard to Southern Africa. Following the election in October of the Rev. Maxime Rafransoa as General Secretary of AACC, a meeting with representatives of AACC and ecumenical partners in Europe and the USA had been sponsored by the WCC with a view to re-establishing communication, mutual understanding and trust. Contacts through staff visits had been maintained with the churches in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

Asia: Following the meeting of the Indochina Consortium in Delhi in November, there had been a staff visit to Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea which had provided an opportunity for contacts with the Christian communities there. In December CICARWS had issued an appeal for $1.4 million for the reconstruction of church buildings in Vietnam. There had been several staff visits to the Philippines. Following a visit to the People's Republic of China by the Rev. Wolfgang Schmidt in December, there had been discussion about possible CCPD support for a development project in a people's commune and about the possibilities of renewing ecumenical dialogue with Christians in China. Staff had begun reviewing the WCC's position regarding China.

Dr. Raiser gave a full report of a pastoral visit to Korea on 10-17 January by an ecumenical team consisting of the Rev. Lois Wilson of the United Church of Canada, the Rev. Shoji Tsutomu of the NCC of Japan, the Rev. Lamar Gibble of the Church of the Brethren, USA, and himself. The visit had provided opportunities for intensive meetings with the leadership of all the member churches, non-member churches and the National Council of Churches in Korea; with family members of Christian detainees; with Christian professors, youth and student leaders, and with military and government leaders. The team was convinced that ways must be found to deepen relationships with the member churches. The NCC could not be the only channel of communication. The WCC must also be more responsive to the language problem. The phenomenal growth of the churches raised questions about their self-understanding and links might be established with churches in a similar situation. There was a continuing urgent concern about human rights and the WCC might

consider ways of serving as a mediator. It should also find ways of helping member churches to obtain true information about the WCC in order to counter campaigns against it. Dr. Kang expressed appreciation of the visit which had encouraged the member churches at a very difficult period in Korean history.

Middle East: In September Mar Ignatius Zakka I (Iwas), a former member of Central Committee, had been enthroned as Patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church. The Third Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches had been held in Cyprus, 27 November - 3 December, on the theme "Your Kingdom Come". The WCC had been represented by Prof. Sabev, Prof. Bria, Dr. Rubeiz and Mr. van Beek. The Assembly had demonstrated the strength of the MECC as a moving force in the life of the churches in the Middle East. In October a consultation jointly sponsored by the MECC and the WCC on Christian presence and witness in the Middle East had given major attention to the burning issue of Christian migration from Middle Eastern countries.

Latin America: A conference on issues of service and development in Latin America, held in September in Brazil, had provided an opportunity for contact with the Latin American member churches and had been followed by staff visits to several countries in Latin and Central America. The conference message had focused on human rights and solidarity with the poor. An important human rights consultation had been convened by the Latin American Council of Churches in formation in October.

North America: The meeting of the US Conference on the WCC held in Madison, Wis., in October had highlighted the need for early consideration of the involvement of the US member churches in the process of preparation for the Assembly. Questions had also been raised about the continued role and function of the US Conference.

Europe: Dr. Raiser referred to the exchange of correspondence with Metropolitan Juvenaly regarding the trials of Christian dissidents in the Soviet Union. The correspondence was part of a continuing process of mutual consultation on issues of human rights. A letter had also been sent by the Officers to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, following up the Central Committee resolution.

Dr. Raiser also referred to correspondence with the Salvation Army. It was hoped that a meeting with Salvation Army leaders would be held before the next Central Committee meeting. There would be a meeting with Eastern Orthodox Church representatives in Sofia at the end of May, and with representatives of Oriental Orthodox Churches in late August or early September.

C. Visits

The Acting General Secretary reported that he had visited the Church of Norway, and also Archbishop Sundby and other Swedish church leaders. Other visits, in connection with WCC conferences, had been made to Sri Lanka, India and Canada.

D. Visits to Geneva

Dr. Raiser referred to visits by the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, His Beatitude Schnork Kaloustian, in September; the International Congress of the Society of Canon Law in October; Bishop Werner Krusche of Magdeburg, Vice-President of the Conference of European Churches, in November; Archbishop Jadot, newly appointed President of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, with all his colleagues, in January; and the General Secretary of the World Muslim Congress, Dr. Inamullah Khan, immediately prior to the Executive Committee.

E. Relationships with other partners

Roman Catholic Church: The final meeting of the SODEPAX Committee had been held in November and consideration was being given to new forms of collaboration in the field of social thought and action after the end of the SODEPAX mandate. The Executive Committee of the Joint Working Group had given preliminary consideration to its Fifth Official Report which would be submitted to the Assembly in Vancouver. Discussions were taking place about a possible visit of the Pope to Geneva, and to Roman Catholic participation in the Sixth Assembly, including the preparatory process.

Jews: There had been a meeting with representatives of the World Jewish Congress in the context of the Christian/Jewish Liaison and Planning Committee. Discussions had taken place with the International Jewish Committee in Interreligious Consultation (IJCIC) following the Central Committee statement on Jerusalem. IJCIC felt that the WCC had taken a political stance and it had been agreed that the Jewish concern should be shared with the Executive Committee through the DFI report.

F. Issues arising from general staff work in Geneva

Since the Central Committee there had been an unusually large number of staff changes. Dr. Raiser drew special attention to Dr. Nita Barrow who had left at the end of 1980 and who had received one of the highest distinctions in the British Commonwealth by being made a Dame of St. Andrews "for extraordinary and outstanding achievement and merit in service to Barbados and humanity at large". There

would also be changes in the leadership of CCIA and PCR with the departure of Mr. Niilus and Dr. Sjollema, for whom this would be the last meeting of the Executive Committee. Dr. Raiser welcomed the arrival of the Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg (Women's Desk), the Rev. Carlos Sintado (Renewal and Congregational Life), the Rev. Wesley Ariarajah (DFI) and Mr. Sam Isaac (CICARWS).

A new working structure had been introduced in the General Secretariat, including the distribution of regional responsibilities among members of the team. The General Secretary was responsible for North America, Ms. Assaad for Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Raiser for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Prof. Sabev for Europe and the Middle East.

The main emphasis of staff work through SEG and other committees had been on Assembly preparation, the re-structuring of the budgeting process and internal financial policy, and the final review of staff regulations. In addition, the first round of performance appraisals had been completed and plans for the extension of the Ecumenical Centre and its modification to increase accessibility for disabled people had been implemented. Discussions with a view to approaches to the Swiss authorities regarding the legal status of the WCC in Switzerland and the terms for the granting of work permits to WCC staff had been resumed with the active participation of the Swiss churches.

* * *

In the discussion of the Acting General Secretary's report Bishop Hempel spoke of the concern felt by the churches in the GDR about events in Poland. Mr. Fischer said that, in response to requests from the churches, the Polish Ecumenical Council and the Government, two consignments of material aid had been sent, particularly to old people's homes. Dr. Raiser added that it was not felt that any formal action at the present moment would be helpful.

In response to questions, Dr. Raiser gave further information on the meeting with Jewish leaders, on the WCC's work for peace and disarmament, and on the situation with regard to the church leaders detained in Ethiopia.

3. REPORTS OF PROGRAMME UNITS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

A. Unit I: Faith and Witness

Prof. Sabev presented the report on Unit I and spoke of the efforts to cooperate more closely with its partners in the Roman Catholic Church, the World Christian Communions, and neighbours of other faiths. The Unit had also tried to

identify the major concerns emerging from the various sub-unit programmes and to relate them to the theme of the Assembly.

Commission on Faith and Order: The Standing Commission had met in January. It had expressed appreciation for the letter from Archbishop Scott and Dr. Raiser on behalf of the Executive Committee, which had helped to dispel recent misunderstandings. The Standing Commission had authorized two long-term studies, on "The Unity of the Church and the Renewal of the Human Community" and "Towards the Common Expression of the Apostolic Faith Today". It had also authorized the convening of the fourth consultation of United and Uniting Churches in November 1981 in Sri Landa. The Standing Commission had requested special authorization to convene a consultation on "The Significance and Contribution of Councils in the Ecumenical Movement" in 1982. The Plenary Commission would meet in Janaury 1982 in Peru, which would contribute to the pre-Assembly visitation process in Latin America. It would deal particularly with the statements on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, the study projects relating church unity to the apostolic faith and to human community, and reports to be presented to the churches at the Assembly.

At a later session the Programme Sub-Committee reported that it had received a report on the study project on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, which was now approaching its final stages during the time of pre-Assembly preparation. As indicated in the section of its report on Meetings in 1982-83 (page 21) it had made recommendations regarding the consultations proposed on the Significance of Councils of Churches (1982) and on the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry texts (1983). It also encouraged the publication of these texts and accompanying materials.

The Executive Committee received this report and accepted its recommendations.

Study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church: Prof. Sabev presented a brief progress report on the Study, together with the report of the Advisory Committee which had met in January. The international consultation to be held in Sheffield, UK, 10-19 July 1981, would gather together the material generated by the programme. The findings and message of the consultation would be presented to the Central Committee and major attention would have to be given to following up these concerns before the Assembly.

Dr. Parvey presented detailed plans for the Sheffield Consultation and explained the guidelines adopted for the selection of the 140 participants from among more than 600 nominees. Most of the participants would come from local

groups involved in the study. There were likely to be four major plenary presentations on the common theme, "A Chance to Change": "What it means to be human", "New insights from the social sciences", "Insights from movements towards human liberation", and "New forms of relationship and their challenge to the Church".

At a later session the Programme Sub-Committee reported that it had received the report on plans for the Sheffield Consultation and recognized the importance of this meeting for the ecumenical movement as a whole. It endorsed the request to the Finance Committee, which should be considered of high priority, to authorize OICD to seek the additional funds necessary for the completion of the study, particularly for the Sheffield Consultation, and including the expenses for Consultants at the Dresden Central Committee.

The Executive Committee endorsed this report.

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism: Considerable staff time had been spent in the follow-up process of the Melbourne Conference and the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Committee. In addition to the publication of the report on the Conference, CWME had inaugurated a new publication service, the first publication in this series being documents on the Common Witness study. The sub-unit had participated in consultations on evangelism which had taken place in Zambia, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Yugoslavia. A consultation on Study Centres, organized in cooperation with the sub-units on Dialogue and Theological Education, had been held in Singapore, and a number of Urban Rural Mission meetings had taken place or were planned. There had been discussions with CCPD and CMC on the concern of the Church and the Poor, which would be of great significance for Assembly preparation.

Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies: Prof. Sabev highlighted the importance of consultation with Jewish organizations and individuals on theological and sociological problems. He referred to the forthcoming Christian-Hindu dialogue, and to the promises and risks of the Christian-Muslim dialogue to be co-sponsored with the World Muslim Congress in September on the theme, "Christians and Muslims living and working together". The DFI Working Group had prepared a series of questions for the ideology study and a consultation would be held in December 1981. Finally, Prof. Sabev expressed appreciation for the open attitude of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, whose staff had recently met with DFI staff in Geneva. A joint programme of ecumenical reflection might lead to a jointly sponsored meeting in 1984.

At a later session the Programme Sub-Committee reported that it had received and endorsed preliminary plans for a consultation on ideologies proposed to be held in Hong Kong, December 1981. It welcomed this meeting as a first attempt to respond to the DFI mandate in regard to ideologies. The Sub-Committee further hoped that in future DFI would be able to move beyond the issues of Christian "inner dialogue" about their own ideological loyalties and tensions and the ideological elements in Christian dialogue with other faiths to "external dialogue" between Christians and people committed to ideologies.

The Executive Committee endorsed this report.

Programme on Theological Education: The European Consultation on Theological Education, held in the GDR in October, had considered theological education in the European contexts; the scientific approach in theological education; accountability to the churches; ministerial formation, and ecumenical dimensions of theological education. A full report would be published. Plans were underway for a US/Canadian consultation on "Global solidarity in theological education", to be held in Toronto, 12-15 July 1981. The PTE Commission would meet in conjunction with this consultation and would in particular consider the new perspectives resulting from the transfer of PTE to Unit III. Prof. Sabev expressed gratitude to Mr. Sapsezian and his colleagues for their contribution to the work of Unit I and looked forward to continued cooperation.

Church and Society: The sub-unit had concentrated on the follow-up of the 1979 Conference on Faith, Science and the Future in regional, national and local meetings. Attention had also been given to international reflection and action on the Faith/Science debate; ethical issues in biological manipulation; the economics of the economically and technologically sustainable society; ethical issues in science education; science for peace, and the energy debate. In this connection a series of consultations and meetings was planned for 1981. A prospectus for the Public Hearing on Nuclear Disarmament had been prepared in cooperation with CCIA. A series of regional consultations had been planned by the staff consultant for the Energy for my Neighbour programme on the ethical and social aspects of the energy crisis in developing countries.

In discussion Dr. Lazareth spoke of the revised statements on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry which would be edited and distributed to members of the Faith and Order Plenary Commission during 1981 for their reaction. The texts would be revised in the light of comments received and discussed at the Lima meeting. It was hoped to send the three texts, together with a volume of theological essays, a lay study guide and a series of liturgical, catechetical and educational

resource materials for local use, to member churches, World Christian Communions, NCCs and others for discussion and official reception. The hearing at the Vancouver Assembly would be critical in enabling the churches to see the inter-church implications of the statements. The statements were not an effort to write a new ecumenical creed. They were rather an attempt to clarify common understandings of the apostolic faith, and to lead to a climate of trust based upon agreement of theological convergences which would allow the kind of unity to become manifest that had both theological acceptability and ecclesial credibility.

Archbishop Kirill asked that the Faith and Order Commission provide the churches with a methodology to work on the process of achieving consensus, emphasizing the points of divergence to which they should give special attention. Bishop Hempel spoke of the importance of the reception of the texts by the churches. Dr. Lazareth said there was a wide difference of opinion registered in the final report of the Forum on Bilateral Conversations regarding the issue of official reception. The broad diversity of understandings and expressions of doctrinal magisterium among the different polities in WCC member churches had to be faced.

A number of questions were asked about participation in the CWMC Sheffield Consultation. Dr. Parvey said it had been hoped that 40% of the participants would be men but there had been a much higher interest among women. It was hoped to increase the number of young participants. Bishop Antonie stressed the importance of Orthodox participation, particularly in connection with the issue of the ordination of women. Ms. Webb stressed that, although this subject would be discussed, the consultation would be about the whole way in which women and men relate to one another and work together in all parts of church life.

Prof. Barkat spoke of the need to probe the relation between faith and ideology in Islam, and of the impossibility of having an equal dialogue between Christians and Muslims in Pakistan. His Holiness Karekin asked that the Muslim communities in Western society be brought into the dialogue. Dr. Taylor replied that the DFI agenda included Islam in Europe and North America.

B. Unit II: Justice and Service

Dr. Raiser said the Unit's work had been marked by three characteristics: firstly, following up the decisions of the Central Committee meeting, particularly in the areas of racism, the Church and the Poor, and the review of the project system; secondly, bringing to a conclusion a number of programmes such as those on Transnational Corporations, and

on Health, Healing and Wholeness; finally, the Unit was beginning to consider the implications for its programmes and activities of planning for the Sixth Assembly. New forms of relationship between Unit II and corresponding partners in the Roman Catholic Church would be discussed in March at the first meeting of a newly constituted consultative group. it was hoped that the Rev. Jacques Blanc would join the staff at the beginning of March with special responsibility in this area.

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service: Staff had made numerous visits to churches and other partners with which a wide variety of programmes were being conducted. Dr. Raiser referred particularly to the visit by Mr. Fischer and Mr. Koshy to Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos in January, on which a report was circulated separately. He also drew special attention to the study on Food Aid in the 1980s and to the follow-up work in the churches on the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources and the Project List review.

Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development: Three main points which have influenced the development debate were being taken into account by the CCPD programme: the report of the Brandt Commission on the North-South dialogue, the 10th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Third Development Decade, and changes in the operational activities of the World Bank. Dr. Raiser highlighted the programme on Transnational Corporations; a number of regional meetings were being organized with various ecumenical partners and a final consultation would be held towards the end of 1981. CCPD had accepted responsibility for coordinating work on political ethics. A consultation was planned and a first report would be brought to Central Committee in 1982.

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Since August 1980 CCIA had continued to focus attention on several conflict situations, human rights issues and issues related to militarism and the arms race. In particular, Dr. Raiser mentioned the plans being made by Church and Society and CCIA for an International Public Hearing on the nuclear arms race. Among the issues to be examined were the erosion of the doctrine of mutual deterrance and the new assumptions about the use and deployment of tactical and strategic weapons; issues related to the public acceptance of the prospect of "limited" nuclear wars; and perspectives of non-nuclear nations on nuclear disarmament strategy.

Christian Medical Commission: Dr. Kingma had taken up the duties of Director at the end of 1980. A regional meeting in the study series on "The Christian Understanding of Health, Healing and Wholeness" had been held for the Indian sub-continent. Staff visits had also been made to health projects and programmes in India and Pakistan, Latin America,

Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone. Collaboration with such organizations as the World Health Organization and the World Bank had continued and staff had attended a number of international meetings organized by these bodies.

At a later session, the Programme Sub-Committee reported that it had noted that the present mandate of the Christian Medical Commission, which came into force on 1 July 1976, was limited to six years and called for a review process during the last two years before the end of the mandate. The Executive Committee agreed that the work of the CMC should be reviewed in the context of the Assembly as in the case of other sub-units. Since the matter called for a decision by the Central Committee, a recommendation to this effect should be brought to the next meeting after consideration by the Commission and the Programme Unit Committee.

Programme to Combat Racism: A special issue of "PCR Information", containing the report and recommendations of the World Consultation in the Netherlands and the decisions of the Central Committee had been published and widely distributed. The PCR Executive Group had spent a major part of its October/November meeting working out next steps following the consultation process. A number of issues for the programme in 1981 had been identified, as follows: racism and theology; racism in church structures; economic basis of racism; racism in education; women under racism; racially-based state repression; racism and land rights; Southern Africa; race and ethnic minorities in Asia; racism, ethnic minorities and migration in Europe; Indian movements in Latin America; research and publications, alternative information. Dr. Raiser referred to the protest by the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) against the decision not to be given a grant from the Special Fund in 1980. He had sent a letter to the Executive Committee and the PCR Commission informing them of developments and indicating the WCC position. With regard to banking questions, a staff group had considered criteria which might be adopted in deciding which banks should or should not be used by the WCC in the context of its policy on South Africa. A paper had been prepared and the subject would be discussed in the Finance Sub-Committee (see page 52). A seminar on bank loans to South Africa, initiated by the UN Centre against Apartheid, would be held in Zürich in April. The PCR Executive Group had made a number of recommendations about WCC participation which had been discussed by the WCC Officers and proposals would be before the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, the Programme Sub-Committee reported that it had received a report on the plans for a seminar on bank loans to South Africa, initiated by the UN Centre against Apartheid. The Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed to approve WCC/PCR co-sponsorship of the

seminar as indicated in the Unit II Report, and full participation in the preparatory process. It was agreed that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

In discussion, Mr. Gatu expressed concern about the situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly in regard to arms sales to Somalia, and about the raids by South Africa into Angola. The refugee problem had been escalated by both these situations and the failure of the Geneva meeting on Namibia.

His Holiness Karekin asked what had been done to help refugees, particularly non-Christians, from the war between Iraq and Iran. Mr. Fischer said CICARWS would provide assistance as soon as the member churches in the region indicated that it would be appropriate.

Mr. Koshy presented a report on the staff visit to Indochina. He spoke of the serious economic problems facing the region and of the difficulties of the churches, particularly in the south of Vietnam. Mr. Fischer added that the response to the CICARWS appeal for church reconstruction in Vietnam had so far been disappointing.

Mr. Leite stressed the importance of dialogue between poor and rich churches. One must not give the impression that they were two different entities.

Dr. Preus reported on the Madrid Conference on European Security and Cooperation which he had attended as a Public Member of the USA delegation. Three things were of major importance for the churches: to maintain their insistence on human rights and the value of all human life; to increase communication between churches across political boundaries; and to indicate that in the post-Helsinki period there were some signs of hope in the relaxation of governmental pressure on churches. Archbishop Kirill said that the détente which had begun after the Helsinki Agreement had had a real effect on church life in socialist countries.

Mr. Koshy introduced the plans for an International Public Hearing on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament to be held in November 1981. It would seek to examine and evaluate the alternative policies and strategies being proposed to achieve nuclear disarmament and make recommendations to the churches on the ways they could make an effective contribution to this end. It was hoped that the Hearing would be an effective means of public education and would contribute to the Special Session of the UN on Disarmament.

In reply to questions, Dr. Kingma spoke of the interest of CMC in studies on traditional methods of healing, which might help developing countries to become more self-reliant

in pharmaceutical needs for health care. CMC was also dealing with the Assembly theme. A seminar would be held in Bossey in June on "Concepts of death and life in different cultures".

In the discussion on PCR, Ms. Skuse referred to the invitation from the Australian Council of Churches to the WCC to send a delegation to Australia to assess the situation of the Aboriginal people, to express solidarity with them and to draw international attention to their concerns. Metropolitan Gregorios said that the problem of Aboriginal people was creating great interest in India. The majority of the tribal people in north-east India were Christians. Dr. Sjollema said that, following the consultation process, there were signs of increased commitment by the churches to the struggle against racism.

Prof. Barkat, speaking as Moderator of Unit II, paid tribute to Dr. Sjollema, Director of PCR, and Mr. Niilus, Director of CCIA, both of whom were attending their last Executive Committee meeting. He has been impressed by their work with the WCC and their knowledge of the constituency. Both had contributed considerably to the cohesiveness of Unit II as a whole. In replying, Dr. Sjollema thanked the Executive Committee for their support for PCR which had made it possible for the WCC to take its courageous stand in the field of racism. But the process was only beginning and needed to be vigorously continued in the future. It was the oppressed themselves who urged us not to give up the struggle. He also spoke of the difficulties facing staff who had to leave the WCC after many years of service. Mr. Niilus spoke of the privilege of working for the WCC, whose actions had made a positive difference in a number of situations. The world faced increasing dangers, particularly with regard to the biosphere, and he hoped to continue his work within the fellowship of the churches.

C. Unit III: Education and Renewal

In introducing the report, Ms. Assaad spoke of the efforts to work in closer cooperation with the other Units and Bossey, and to strengthen the Unit by regular staff meetings. Since January the Programme on Theological Education had been represented at these meetings.

The Sub-Unit on Education had concentrated on seven programme areas. a) The ministry and advocacy for children: the international conference on "Children as active partners in the Christian community", held in September in Evian, had brought together 140 delegates from 51 countries. b) Family education: the Advisory Group had met in Alexandria in November and proposed guidelines for pastoral care. This meeting had been followed by the World Assembly of Families, held in

Rome. One of its major tasks had been to provide an ecumenical response to the Synod of Bishops which, in October, had reflected on the role of the Christian family in today's world. c) Ecumenical education: a workshop, organized jointly with the Development Education Desk in CCPD, on "Ecumenical dimensions in religious education" had been held in Sydney in January. Preparations were being made for consultations on an Orthodox core curriculum project, to be held in New York in June, and on "Christian teaching in a multi-faith environment", to take place in Manchester, UK, in July. d) Church-related educational institutions programme: plans were being implemented in a variety of ways. In order to stimulate international interest and involvement in the programme, participants from Latin America and Asia would be invited to the MECC meeting in June of "The churches' responsibility in school education in the Middle East". e) Biblical studies: the main emphasis of the programme remained the training courses for Bible study enablers in different parts of the world. The Director had worked in close cooperation with the Graduate School at Bossey. The other main emphasis was studies on the role of the Bible in non-literary cultures. f) Basic and adult education: it had been decided to expand the role of the sub-unit to include assistance to churches and Christian councils carrying out non-formal eduational projects and to encourage them to respond to the needs of illiterates. The Working Group of the sub-unit, which would meet in May, would decide on the next steps to be taken in this programme. g) Scholarships Programme: the Handbook on the WCC Scholarships Programme had been published in English and French. The new Executive Secretary would begin work in May on the implementation of the new Scholarships programme.

Renewal and Congreational Life: The new Director, Canon Tatchell, had visited the Middle East to consult with the sub-unit Moderator, Patriarch Ignatios IV, and to plan for the Working Group meeting and team visit in April. He had also visited churches and agencies in Canada and the USA to seek their cooperation and financial support. A major consultation on Ecumenical Spirituality was scheduled to take place in Africa in November 1981. The Rev. Carlos Sintado had joined the sub-unit in January and would relate particularly to lay training centres around the world.

Women in Church and Society: The Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg had taken up her responsibilities as Director in October 1980. The sub-unit had continued to base its programme on four major emphases: advocacy role for women, particularly with regard to the participation of women in the Sixth Assembly; enabling women to participate more fully in the life of the Church and of society; communication; and theological reflection. The sub-unit was taking an active part in the study on "The Community of Women and Men in the Church"

and planned to prepare a newsletter dealing with the issues raised by the study.

Youth: Since August 1980 a number of inter-regional and regional conferences had been held, including a three-regional (Africa, Europe, Middle East) meeting on "Renewal and the liberation of the oppressed", held in Cyprus, and a Middle East regional meeting on the theme "Your Kingdom Come". At the latter meeting a remarkable spirit had developed among Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic young people and participants had sent a letter to the General Assembly of MECC asking for new and urgent steps to promote Christian unity. An Orthodox/Protestant youth meeting on the theme "To be a servant" would take place in the Middle East in March. An evaluation meeting on World Youth Projects had been held in Singapore in September. Major attention had been given to the involvement of young people in the process of reflection and preparation leading up to the Sixth Assembly.

In discussion His Holiness Karekin spoke of the importance of Christian education in the Middle East at the present time and of the meeting in June planned by the MECC. His Holiness Iliya stressed the need for the Education sub-unit to take into account the cultural conditions in each country. Bishop Hempel hoped that the leadership training programmes for women would also include women in Europe. Dr. Kang felt that the WCC should have closer relations with academies and lay training centres.

D. General Secretariat

a. Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

Prof. Hertz introduced the report. A major focus of work since the Central Committee had been the Graduate School, whose theme this year had been "The Bible in the life of the Church". There had been good participation from Africa, Asia and Oceania, but fewer Orthodox and Roman Catholic participants than expected. There had been a number of staff changes and re-organization of assignments, and closer working relations with colleagues in the Ecumenical Centre, particularly with Unit III. Courses for 1982 were being planned in connection with the Sixth Assembly. Prof. Hertz felt that the quality of worship at Bossey had greatly improved and it was hoped that in future two sisters from Grandchamps might attend the Graduate School to help with its spiritual life. Bossey still faced financial problems. It was hoped that the gift from the Kirchliche Entwicklungs Dienst would be renewed but the help of member churches was needed to find new sources of support for the Endowment Fund and for programme and scholarship purposes. The Board

looked forward to changes in the handling of the Endowment Fund in order to improve earnings.

b. Department of Communication

Mr. Bluck, who introduced the report, referred particularly to the staff changes which had taken place or would take place by June, and to the preparations for the Central Committee in Dresden. The most important new development was the study on the churches' response to the new international information order, to be carried out ecumenically in association with the Lutheran World Federation, World Association for Christian Communication and Roman Catholic partners. This had begun with a meeting in Geneva in September 1980 and a larger follow-up meeting in February in Versailles. It was hoped to provoke a debate among the churches and to prepare a position paper on "Church, Media and Communication". The Project Team, which tried to respond to the concerns of the churches, would be joined during 1981 by two interns, one from the Russian Orthodox Church and one from the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. The team had recently been engaged in preparing a German film interpreting the WCC. With regard to publications, 15 titles had been published since last August. Plans were under discussion for a Chinese language ecumenical quarterly drawing materials from "One World" and other WCC and CCA publications, to be launched in cooperation with the Hong Kong Christian Council.

In discussion, Dr. Simatupang questioned the need for a Chinese publication. Mr. Bluck replied that the proposal was only possible because the Hong Kong Christian Council, with its network through South-East Asia, saw the need for more adequate ecumenical material and was prepared to make a major investment in the project. There had been full consultation with the Christian Conference of Asia. Dr. Raiser recognized that delicate issues were involved, including WCC relationships with China, and these questions would be brought to the Executive Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

c. New York Office

Dr. Bridston presented the report. He spoke of the cooperation between the staff of the New York Office, the North American Task Force and the Communication Department. The relationship with the Task Force needed clarification, particularly in view of preparations for the Vancouver Assembly. The major event for the New York Office since August had been the General Meeting of the US Conference for the WCC in Madison, Wisconsin, in October, which had been preceded by a weekend seminar on Faith, Science and the Future. The Board of Directors of the US Conference had

elected Dr. Wedel to succeed Dr. Marshall as Moderator of the Conference. The Conference had also entered into a legal arrangement with the WCC and the Ecumenical Development Co-operative Society (EDCS). It would now be able to issue subventions enabling individuals and congregations in the US to invest in EDCS. The meeting had also provided an important opportunity for alerting the American member churches to the need to prepare for their participation in the 1983 Assembly. The staff of the New York Office had been heavily involved in promoting various WCC programmes in the US, and were working closely with Unit II in arranging a consultation and meeting of Commissioners and officers of member churches in the US in March in Atlanta. Issues which needed attention in the coming months included a review of the nature and function of the General Meeting of the US Conference and the principles underlying ecumenical relations. In connection with the latter problem, Dr. Bridston had agreed to edit a volume entitled, "An ecumenical sampler: conflict and consensus".

4. SIXTH ASSEMBLY

A. Report of Assembly Preparations Committee

Ms. Webb introduced the report (Appendix III). After a full discussion and the clarification of a number of points, the report was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II presented the report of the Programme Sub-Committee on preparations for the Sixth Assembly. After discussion and amendment, the report was accepted as follows:

The Programme Sub-Committee reviewed the report from the Assembly Preparations Committee and wishes to commend the Committee for this report and encourage their further work along the lines indicated. We wish to offer the following comments for the guidance of the Committee in preparing its fuller report for the Central Committee.

A. Preparatory Bible Studies

1. We support the approach of "images" as proposed by the committee, but want to stress that it is important to clarify and explain clearly, especially for the sake of non-English speakers, the meaning of the concept of "images" and what this approach is intended to convey. We suggest that this could be tried out with persons from different cultures at the 1981 Central Committee meeting.

2. We welcome the willingness of Christian World Communions, the United Bible Societies and other groups, to share in the preparation of these Bible studies. We urge the Committee and staff to invite their comments and responses to the proposals in advance of the proposed meeting of a group of Bible study persons.

B. Visitation and Consultation Programme

1. We welcome the interpretation of this programme which explains more fully than before what this can mean in the life of the churches. We note that the logistics of such a visitation process need more elaboration and hope that this will be addressed in the Committee's report to Central Committee. Conversations between participants from a particular country or sub-region during the Central Committee meeting in Dresden could be useful in suggestion logistical and programme models. We hope that the section on "models for visits" can be developed to provide further examples of the programmes for visits.

2. We would ask the Committee to give consideration to ways in which people belonging to non-member churches can be involved in the programme of visits. Careful preparations should also be undertaken, where appropriate, to make contacts with adherents of other faiths and ideologies. We recognize that the desirability and possibility for such wider contacts will vary considerably according to national situations.

3. It is important to communicate to the churches that, although the details of the Assembly programme will have to be formulated before the visitation programme is completed, the Committee will take carefully into account in planning the Assembly the concerns of the churches articulated through the visitation process and the reports received from the visits.

C. Programme and Structure

1. With regard to the "major concerns", we recognize that the present formulations are tentative descriptions and that the final wording will have to be very specific, with a short paragraph of interpretation.

2. We suggest several additional tentative descriptions of "major concerns" for consideration:

   - God's gift of life and threats to life
   - The meaning and mystery of life

- The unity of all life
- The sacrifice/laying down of life for others
- Respect for life and the manipulation of life
- Present-day agony about life.

3. The process of reporting back to plenary sessions at the end of the Assembly from work groups, clusters and committees needs to be more clearly explained.

D. Participants

1. We hope that early and serious attention will be given to invitations to be extended to non-member churches.

2. We recommend that invitations be extended to 12-15 representatives of other faiths and that the estimated number of participants be reviewed to take this into account.

3. Special attention needs to be given to the number of visitors expected because of the location of the Assembly. The number of accredited visitors (for whom a special programme will be planned and who will be entitled to seats in the plenary sessions) will have to be limited by carefully established and implemented criteria. We expect that the Assembly Preparations Committee will include such criteria in its report to Central Committee. These could include the following (not in order of priority):

   - spouses of delegates
   - those recommended by their churches
   - representatives of local councils of churches (and other "multipliers")
   - those willing to stay for the entire period of the Assembly.

E. Communication

1. We recommend that the term "press" be replaced by "media representatives" to make clear that the number estimated does not represent only newspaper journalists but also the electronic media teams and technicians who are expected.

2. We share the Assembly Preparations Committee's concern about the large number of media representatives expected. We have recognized the importance of openness and transparency in the Assembly which will lend credibility to the WCC and the ecumenical move-

ment. At the same time, we urge that the criteria for accreditation be strictly enforced.

F. Canadian and Vancouver Committees

1. We share the appreciation of the Assembly Preparations Committee for the excellent leadership being given and the work which has already been done by both Committees in Canada.

2. With regard to the plans being made by the Vancouver Committee for a public event on the opening day of the Assembly, Sunday, July 24, 1983, we recommend that

   a) initiative and responsibility for this be lodged with the Vancouver Committee, in close consultation with the Assembly Preparations Committee;

   b) this event be understood and planned as an opportunity for the Canadian churches to welcome the Assembly, in which the Assembly delegates are participants, not spectators, representing the "World Church" in interaction with our Canadian hosts;

   c) this event be an integral part of the Assembly programme, to which Assembly participants will go together, following their gathering first as an Assembly in an act of worship on the U.B.C. campus on Sunday morning.

G. Meetings in 1982-83

We concur with the Assembly Preparations Committee in raising a number of basic concerns regarding meetings in 1982. Following the suggestion of the Assembly Preparations Committee we recommend that

   a) authorization be given to the proposed small Faith and Order Consultation on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry; the regional meeting planned in Eastern Europe by Church and Society as part of the follow-up of the MIT Conference,

   b) authorization in principle be given to the proposed PCR Consultation on the churches' involvement in South Africa; the CCPD Consultation on the Orthodox contribution to the Search for Justice; and the Faith and Order Consultation on the Significance and Contribution of Councils in the Ecumenical Movement; with the request

that their content, format and timing be reviewed by the Assembly Preparations Committee for report to the Executive Committee in August,

c) no authorization be given to the plans of a World Conference on Diakonia proposed by CICARWS or the Workshop on Racism in Education in their present form,

d) CICARWS be invited to prepare instead for a seminar/consultation of up to 30 participants, drawing together the results of the series of regional meetings and topical consultations in recent years and preparing for the issues to be discussed at the Assembly with a view to a new mandate of ecumenical work in the area of service.

e) Insofar as any of the above meetings represent a demand on the funds set aside for pre-Assembly travel and meetings, we expect that the request will be considered by the Assembly Preparations Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations of the Programme Sub-Committee.

B. Seat allocations

a. Requests for additional seats: Ms. Skuse reported that the Sub-Committee on Nominations had reviewed a number of requests that had been received since the last meeting of Central Committee for the allocation of additional seats at the Assembly. It was recognized that any allocation of additional seats would reduce the number of seats to be allocated at a later date by Central Committee (15% of the total). It was also understood that any new member churches accepted before the Assembly would be entitled to seats according to their membership.

1. Church of Scotland

This church had requested one additional seat (5 instead of 4) in recognition of its total constituency of between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 as a national church. The Sub-Committee had been informed that the Episcopal Church in Scotland would send only one delegate instead of the two that had been allocated. An additional delegate for the Church of Scotland would therefore not change the size of the total delegation from Scotland. The Executive Committee agreed to allocate one additional seat to the Church of Scotland, on the understanding that the Episcopal Church is sending only one delegate.

2. Eglise évangélique du Congo

This church had requested one additional seat (2 instead of 1) in view of the fact that its present membership is 97,200 rather than the 39,000 that was used as the basis for the original allocation. On the basis of this new information the Executive Committee agreed to allocate one additional seat to the Eglise évangélique du Congo.

3. Presbyterian Church of Korea

This church had requested one additional seat (3 instead of 2) in view of the fact that its membership is at least one million instead of 630,000 as reported earlier. On the basis of this new information, and in view of the relative size and delegations of the other member churches in Korea, the Executive Committee agreed to allocate one additional seat to the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

4. American Lutheran Church

This church had requested one additional seat (6 instead of 5) in view of its size (2,377,000). The Sub-Committee recognized that the delegation of the ALC at Vancouver would be less than at Nairobi (as is the case with a number of churches), but felt that the allocation approved by Central Committee was correct, and therefore did not propose any change. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the decision of Central Committee.

5. Protestant Church of the Moluccas

This church had requested one additional seat (3 instead of 2) in view of its membership of 575,000. The Sub-Committee felt that the allocation of 2 seats was correct, and therefore did not propose any change. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the decision of Central Committee.

6. United Protestant Church of Belgium

This church was formed in 1978 by merger of the two member churches in Belgium,each of which had been represented at Nairobi by one delegate. In view of the Central Committee's expression of intent not to discriminate unintentionally against newly united churches, the church had asked for two seats instead of one. The Sub-Committee noted that other churches which had entered into union since Nairobi had also lost in the overall total of delegates, and that,

since the combined membership of the United Protestant Church of Belgium is 35,000, there was no discrimination and it therefore did not propose any change. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the decision of Central Committee.

7. In view of the fact that the member churches had had several opportunities to respond to the proposal regarding the statistics of membership and the allocation of Assembly seats, the Executive Committee agreed to now indicate that, following this meeting, the seat allocations would be considered final and that no further requests for additional seats would be considered.

b. Indonesia: During the Central Committee meeting in August 1980, attention had been called to the fact that three of the member churches in Indonesia (Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa - GPIM; the Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor - GMIT; and the Protestant Church of the Moluccas - GPM) are actually members of a fourth member church, the Protestant Church in Indonesia (GPI). Confirmation of the allocation of seats to these member churches had therefore been deferred pending further consultation.

It was now clear that the GPIM, the GMIT and the GPM are regional autonomous churches, which together with other regional churches are members of the GPI, the original WCC member church.

The Sub-Committee had carefully reviewed the facts in this matter regarding the membership of the churches, their relationship to one another, and the proposed allocation of seats. The Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that the allocation proposed in August 1980 be confirmed, as follows:

GPI - 3 seats (total membership ca. 2 million, including GPIM, GMIT & GPM)
GPIM - 2 seats (membership 350,000)
GMIT - 3 seats (membership 720,000)
GPM - 2 seats (membership 575,000)

The Sub-Committee was informed that the Protestant Church in Indonesia Barat (GPIB) had also applied for separate membership in the WCC. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend that if the GPIB is accepted into membership, it should receive 2 of the seats now allocated to GPI of which it is also a member.

5. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS 1981

Ms. Meyhoffer, who had succeeded Dr. Barrow as moderator of the Staff Task Force on Disabled Persons, said the Task Force had aimed at sensitizing groups at local level rather than arranging programmes from Geneva.

Ms. Martin, consultant on the subject, presented the report of the Task Force and the brochure "Partners", which had been widely circulated to stimulate discussion. She referred to the magnitude of the problem, with more than 450 million disabled persons in the world, and to the work of UN agencies, governments and churches. She spoke of the inter-relationships between child disabilities and poverty which were especially evident in the rural areas and urban slums in developing countries, where 80% of disabled persons live, and stressed the special burden placed on women, who watch their children sicken and die or remain disabled, or who are themselves handicapped. Among the principal causes of disability were malnutrition, disease, war, accidents, alcohol and drug abuse. Many refugees suffered from disabilities and mental stress, and permanent injury was often caused to people who were imprisoned and tortured. Disabling problems among the elderly, both mental and physical, were increasing. All this led to a terrible wastage of human resources, and the human misery involved was incalculable.

On the positive side, the Year was giving impetus to research into invalidating diseases and many organizations concerned with disabled persons were coordinating efforts to reach more of those in need and encouraging preventive measures. All authorities agreed that at least 50% of disabilities in the world could be prevented. Highest priority must therefore be given to improved nutrition and health care.

Churches and their agencies must encourage a) an increasing awareness of the needs, abilities and aspirations of disabled persons; b) the participation, equality and integration of disabled people; c) the prevention of disability; and d) more positive attitudes towards disabled persons.

In discussion, Dr. McCloud stressed the importance of educating people about the disabled and making clear that the problem was worldwide. His Holiness Ilia spoke of the need to help disabled persons not only economically but also spiritually by integrating them into their community.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, Mr. Gatu, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, presented a proposed statement. After discussion and amendment, the Executive Committee adopted the following statement and appeal to the member churches:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS 1981

Introduction

We are already well into the International Year of Disabled Persons. International agencies, governments and individual communities have begun to mobilize new programmes which address the needs of people with disabilities. Churches have been working at this. Numerous examples could be given of studies and initiatives undertaken by individual churches.

The World Council of Churches also has given serious attention to this issue. Progress can be seen in the nature of this involvement: the Louvain statement on the unity of mankind (1971), the Nairobi Assembly statement on "The Handicapped and the Wholeness of the Family of God" (1975), the Melbourne statement on mission with the poor (1980), the studies on Health and Wholeness (1978-1981) and on the Church and the Poor (1979-1981) show this progress - but we have just begun.

Scope and Causes

It is estimated that at least 450 million persons are mentally or physically disabled today, that is, 10% of the world's population.

Some are born disabled, some acquire disability, and some have disability thrust upon them. Disability is intimately affected by and connected with the socio-economic condition of those concerned. Millions of cases can be traced to poverty and deprivation, many others are symptoms of industrialization and affluence; still others stem from war and other forms of overt and subtle violence; some of the causes are not known.

Though the nature and causes of disability differ somewhat from place to place, this is a worldwide problem, and no region is immune from any single form of impairment.

Two major causes of disability in the developing world are inadequate nutrition of mothers and the malnutrition of children which can impair the normal development of both mind and body, made even worse by inadequate provision for preventive measures and health care. It is in the developing world, where some 80% of those who are disabled live, that the resources to address these problems are the most scarce; at the same time it must be recognized that in these countries some of the simplest measures can be the most effective in preventing on a large scale the development of disability.

In the industrialized world, the hazards of pollution, industrial and traffic accidents, and patterns of abusive habits have contributed to epidemics of disability. The disabilities of mental illness and mental retardation constitute a major concern. Disabilities related to aging are becoming more common in the context of increasing life expectancy.

And everywhere the societal factors that impart the "handicapping" are deeply ingrained. Architectural and attitudinal barriers as well as our tendency to sequester and exclude those with disabilities must be vigorously attacked.

Appeal

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, at its meeting in February 1981, expresses its full support to the efforts already being made to implement the goals of the Year of Disabled Persons.

A. It encourages member churches and ecumenical bodies at the regional, national and local level to cooperate with governments and with non-governmental organisations including associations of disabled persons, and to sensitize their members to the needs, hopes and aspirations of disabled persons.

B. It recognizes the historical commitment of the Church to the care and support of those who are disabled. But much remains to be done. A thorough approach to preventive efforts, early health care, remedial and rehabilitative measures are more economic and more humanitarian than the life long support of people left dependent on others.

C. It reaffirms strongly the aim of integration and full participation of disabled persons, recognizing their abilities and gifts, in the life of church and community; while at the same time affirming the need for specialized care for the more severely disabled people.

D. It emphasizes that the Church has a particular contribution in examining and giving prominence to social and moral issues which relate to disablement, including advocacy of the human rights of disabled persons.

The Executive Committee urges member churches to pursue, with renewed focus, study and action programmes leading to preventing disabilities, rehabilitating those in need and welcoming all children of God into full partnership.

6. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr. Niilus introduced notes prepared by staff on Namibia and El Salvador. After discussion it was agreed that the following groups should draft statements on these situations: on Namibia, Mrs. Jiagge (convener), Mr. Bena-Silu, Ms. Webb; on El Salvador, Dr. Wedel (convener), Prof. Barkat, Mr. Leite.

A. Namibia

At a later session Mrs. Jiagge presented a proposed statement. After discussion and amendment, the Executive Committee adopted the following statement:

1. The churches in Namibia have increasingly become targets of attack from the South African authorities as a result of their identification with the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence. In a statement of January 15, 1981, the Executive Committee of the Namibian Council of Churches (representing the majority of the people of Namibia) expressed "its deepest disappointment at the failure of the conference on Namibia held in Geneva under UN auspices in January". The statement appealed to "all Christians throughout the world to pray without ceasing for the peace of Namibia".

2. The Central Committee of the WCC, in its statement on Namibia in August 1980, said that "the implementation of the plan (the UN plan for Namibia) remains paralysed by South Africa's continued intransigence". It called upon its member churches to "encourage and support the Council of Churches in Namibia in the exercise of their prophetic ministry", "increase pressure upon the members of the United Nations Security Council, especially those from the West, for a speedy implementation of the UN Resolution 435 (1978)" and to reaffirm support for the UN position on SWAPO "as the authentic representative of the Namibian people".

3. Developments related to Namibia during the period after the Central Committee have made the situation extremely serious,destroying hopes for an early settlement of the conflict and prolonging the agony of the Namibian people. The "pre-implementation conference" on Namibia failed because the Government of South Africa refused to sign a cease-fire agreement and blatantly defied the UN. The SWAPO declared its willingness to comply fully with the UN resolution and to sign the cease-fire agreement immediately.

4. While intensifying repression inside Namibia, South Africa's operations in Southern Angola have been extended in such a way that it is now waging a full-scale war,

deliberately killing and terrorizing Angolan citizens in any area where SWAPO might find support. As part of a strategy of destabilisation of the front-line states, South Africa is also attacking other countries including Mozambique.

5. A new aspect of concern in Namibia, especially for the churches, is the illegal conscription of young Namibians over 16 years of age for service in the territorial militia under white South African officers. As the churches of Namibia pointed out in a petition to the President of South Africa, this has resulted in the immediate exodus of a large number of young people and "the further polarization of the people of the territory".

6. The Executive Committee calls upon its member churches

- to reaffirm their support to the churches and people of Namibia in all their efforts to achieve freedom and justice for their country;

- to support generously programmes for humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict inside Namibia, Angola and neighbouring countries, in particular by supporting the CICARWS appeal of January 1981;

- to increase pressure, by concerted efforts, on governments of their countries, especially the Western governments, to ensure that there is no further delay in the implementation of the UN plan for Namibia and to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on South Africa (including a withdrawal of investments, an end to bank loans, arms embargo and oil sanctions) since it continues to block the implementation of the plan.

The Executive Committee assures the churches in Namibia that at this critical time in the history of their country, as they continue to affirm Christ's victory over sin and evil as the motive power for their struggle, they are being upheld in intercessory prayers by churches around the world.

B. El Salvador

Dr. Wedel presented a proposed statement. After discussion the drafting group was asked to make a number of revisions. At a later session Dr. Wedel presented a revised statement which was adopted as follows:

1. The Central Committee of the WCC in August 1980 viewed with great concern "the increasing escalation of repression and violence in Central America, and particularly in El Salvador". We reaffirm its statement with

force, and especially where it "calls upon the military authorities of the Government of El Salvador immediately to cease all repressive activity; affirms its full spiritual, moral, material and economic support to the churches in El Salvador; reiterates the deepest solidarity with the suffering and demands of the people; appeals to nations to abstain from interfering in the internal affairs of El Salvador; and draws attention of the member churches of the WCC to the Resolution of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA which calls on the United States Government to halt all assistance to the military and police of El Salvador."

2. We have followed with profound concern the development of events since then. We deplore in particular the severe attacks upon the clergy and lay people of the churches in El Salvador as they carry out courageous and exemplary ministries of pastoral and prophetic solidarity with the population.

3. We deplore the fact that direct military assistance to El Salvador, from various sources, has increased violence and repression and delayed the search for peace. We urgently appeal that such interference cease, and call on our member churches to press for a respect for the dignity, integrity and resolve of the El Salvadoran people to determine their own future. We view with particular alarm recent reports that the United States Government has increased military, economic and political support to the El Salvadoran military authorities.

4. We express our deep sense of community with our sisters and brothers in El Salvador, who are representative of the churches and people of that country, in the suffering which they endure and in the struggle they have made their own.

5. We call upon our sister churches and communities in Latin America, nationally and regionally, to join with us in engaging in intercessory prayer, action and support on behalf of the El Salvadoran people. We join with the Latin American Council of Churches (in formation), in its recent letter to the Christian Churches in El Salvador that "we are convinced that the God whom we worship and serve is the Lord of history" and "that as Christians we are called to be members of the same body".

6. We urge the member churches of the WCC to strengthen and accelerate their ecumenical support for the concrete efforts being undertaken for alleviating the suffering in El Salvador, and in particular to support the CICARWS appeal of January 1981, and forcefully to bring to bear effective pressure to end the repression in that country.

7. Finally, as we approach the first anniversary of the martyrdom of the revered pastor and Archbishop of San Salvador, Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, we echo words of his successor, Bishop Arturo Rivera Damas, as we pray that the people of El Salvador may hold to their faith and to their struggle for a more just and fraternal society, in which there will be true peace, in which fear and terror will give way to fellowship and joy.

The Executive Committee also agreed that the text of the statement be presented to the current session of the UN Human Rights Commission being held in Geneva, which had El Salvador on its agenda.

7. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

Dr. Raiser referred to the discussion on Roman Catholic relationships which had taken place in the Executive Committee in February 1980. Since then the Pope had undertaken extensive travels and spoken publicly on many occasions. He had issued official documents on the importance of common catechetical work, statements on the priesthood and the Eucharist, and an encyclical on the central biblical notion of mercy. There had been a meeting of the Synod of Bishops on the Family; the WCC had contributed to the discussion leading to the final working document. It was hoped that cooperation in the follow-up work might be possible through the Laity Council.

The Pope had addressed the Secretariat for Unity on many occasions and had shown specific interest in the question of common witness, including collaboration in the social field. There had been regular communication with the Roman Catholic Church, especially with regard to the Melbourne Conference. Roman Catholic missionary orders had shown a growing interest in closer relationships with CWME. There had also been contacts in the areas of Dialogue, Education and Laity as well as Faith and Order questions. But there was an overall impression that we had now reached a plateau of collaboration beyond which it would be difficult to move, largely because of the incompatibility of structures.

Dr. Raiser referred to the question of a possible visit by the Pope to Geneva, including a visit to the WCC. A letter had been sent on behalf of the Officers expressing the hope that if there should be such a visit it would be an opportunity for real encounter and common ecumenical witness.

Bishop Harms spoke of the visit of the Pope to the FRG and of the encouraging meeting he had had with leaders of the Evangelical Church. A Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Secretariat for Unity, and the Evangelical Church had been set up.

Dr. Visser't Hooft suggested that a visit of the Pope to the WCC might focus on a statement on common witness. Metropolitan Gregorios suggested that a special project for disabled persons might be announced. The issue was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, Mr. Gatu reported on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee as follows:

Having received a report about the possibility of a visit by Pope John Paul II to Geneva, including a visit to the World Council of Churches, and while welcoming such a possibility, the Programme Sub-Committee wanted the following concerns to be noted and taken into account in further discussions:

- that a forthcoming visit by the Pope should be different in character from the earlier visit by Pope Paul VI in 1969;

- that every effort should be made for the visit to become a genuine ecumenical event and a sign of encouragement in the present state of the ecumenical movement;

- that the style and duration of the visit should allow for a real encounter around a point of recognized common concern, e.g. the call to common witness by the churches;

- that in view of the likely public interest focussed on such a visit, the programme should include, if possible, a public act of common, ecumenical witness.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Mr. Perkins presented the applications.

A. Eglise Presbytérienne au Rwanda (Presbyterian Church in Rwanda)

It was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee accept the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda as a full member church of the World Council of Churches.

B. Tonga National Council of Churches

It was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee recognize the Tonga National Council of Churches as an associate council of the World Council of Churches.

C. Council of Churches for Wales

It was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee recognize the Council of Churches for Wales as an associate council of the World Council of Churches.

9. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

In addition to the sections of the report included under other headings, the Programme Sub-Committee reported as follows:

A. Public Hearing on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament

The Sub-Committee had received with interest the report on the plans for the International Public Hearing, to be convened jointly by CCIA and Church and Society in November 1981, in Amsterdam. On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to endorse the plan for the Hearing and to encourage the staff in the development of this programme.

B. Indochina

The Sub-Committee had received the report of the staff visit to Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea and expressed its appreciation for the renewal of relationships and establishment of new relationships with churches in those countries.

It recommended and the Executive Committee agreed to call upon the member churches to continue to support:

- reconstruction and development efforts in Vietnam and Laos through the WCC-CCA Consortium;

- the WCC-CCA joint programme in Kampuchea in response to emergency needs and for rehabilitation.

The Sub-Committee also recommended and the Executive Committee agreed to commend the appeal by CICARWS for reconstruction of church buildings in Vietnam and request member churches to respond generously to the appeal.

10. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Ms. Skuse.

A. Central Committee

It was reported that there were eight vacancies on the Central Committee. On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the

Executive Committee agreed to nominate the following for appointment by the Central Committee in August 1981:

Ato Mersie Hazen Abebe, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, in place of Ato Tsegaye Habte, who had resigned.

Bishop James M. Ault, United Methodist Church USA, in place of Bishop Ralph T. Alton, who had resigned.

Rev. Albert To Burua, United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, in place of Rev. Leslie Boseto, who had resigned.

Metropolitan G. Yohanna Ibrahim, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, in place of His Holiness Ignatius Zakka I (Iwas), who had resigned.

Rev. Yoichi Kishimoto, United Church of Christ in Japan, in place of Ms. Michiko Okuda, who had resigned.

Dr. Remco J. Mooi, Netherlands Reformed Church, in place of Dr. Albert H. van den Heuvel, who had resigned.

With regard to Commissioner Harry Williams, Salvation Army, who had resigned in 1980 on his retirement, the Sub-Committee reported that a nomination had been received but that, since the status of the Salvation Army's membership was still undecided, no action was proposed at this time. It also reported that no nomination had yet been received for the vacancy created by the death of Bishop Frederick Jordan, American Methodist Episcopal Church, USA, but that it was hoped to bring one to the Central Committee in August 1981.

The Executive Committee agreed that in future communications to member churches regarding appointments to the Central Committee, attention be drawn to the increasing imbalance of the number of women to men, and a request be made that names of women be submitted for any replacements.

B. Commissions and Working Groups

a. Unit II - CICARWS

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to nominate the following for appointment by the Central Committee in 1981 as members of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service:

Metropolitan G. Yohanna Ibrahim, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, in place of His Holiness Ignatius Zakka I (Iwas), who had resigned.

Bishop Stephan of Zicha, Serbian Orthodox Church, in place of Metropolitan Pankratij, who had resigned.

Pastor Georgio Bouchard, Waldensian Church, Italy, as an additional member, thus bringing the membership to the full number of 30.

b. Faith and Order Plenary Commission

On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed that the following persons, who had been nominated by the Faith and Order Standing Commission, be appointed to the Faith and Order Plenary Commission:

Rev. Stefan Alexe, Romanian Orthodox Church

Ms. Haydée Bouzada, Roman Catholic Church, Argentina

Prof. Alfredo Altamira, SJ, Roman Catholic Church, Argentina.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr. McCloud presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee as follows:

1. Review of 1980 Financial Situation

It is not yet possible to provide final figures for the 1980 financial year. However, the books were closed at a much earlier date than in previous years, and it is consequently possible to give a preliminary indication of the outcome of the year's operations. It should be appreciated that the figures are subject to audit adjustments.

Direct expenses incurred in 1980 were held marginally below budget, with a net underspending of Sfr 386,838 or 1.3% of the approved budget.

Summary of operations for 1980
The year's operations can be summarized as follows:

Total Expenditure	SFr 31.4 million
Total Income (excluding exchange gains but including interest to be credited to operating funds)	30.6 million
Operating deficit	SFr 0.8 million

Exchange Fluctuation Reserve

Actual exchange rates during 1980 were, generally speaking, higher than the WCC's fixed rates, and exchange gains were realized, the total during the year being SFr 2.0 million. The conversion of currency assets and liabilities into Swiss francs at the year end, on the other hand, created an unrealized exchange difference of SFr 1.8 million.

Movements in the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve to 31 December 1980 are likely to be as follows:

Exchange Fluctuation Reserve at 1 January 1980	SFr 2.5 million
Exchange gains realized in 1980	SFr 2.0 million
	SFr 4.5 million
Less unrealized exchange difference on conversion of assets and liabilities at 31 December 1980	SFr 1.8 million
Balance of Exchange Fluctuation Reserve at 31 December 1980	SFr 2.7 million

Operating Balance

From the preliminary figures it seems that the Operating Balance will move as follows:

Balance at 31 December 1979		SFr 1,360,000
Amount transferred to Retirement Fund in 1980 to cover the cost of increased pensions		SFr 300,000
		SFr 1,060,000
Undesignated income received in 1980	SFr 4,982,176	
Amounts required by budgets dependent on undesignated income approx.	SFr 4,600,000	382,176
Balance at 31 December 1980		SFr 1,442,176

2. Level of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve

At the Central Committee held in August 1980, it was agreed to request the Investment Advisory Group to provide a suitable formula for setting an appropriate level for the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve in relation to the currency assets and liabilities held by the Council, and taking into consideration any other factors which the Group may decide were relevant. (Minutes, page 108)

The Investment Advisory Group considered the Central Committee's request at their meeting in November 1980. The Investment Advisory Group's view was that, with the introduction of a monthly accounting exchange rate system, the only major factor of continuing concern would be currency exposure. The Investment Advisory Committee has suggested that the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve be based on 10% of the extent of the currency exposure, with a minimum Reserve of SFr 1 million.

The extent of the WCC's dollar exposure at 31 December 1980 was the equivalent of SFr 13.4 million. If the formula suggested by the Investment Advisory Group were to be adopted, the level of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve would need to be maintained at a minimum of SFr 1,340,000.

The Finance Sub-Committee notes, however, that the US dollar/Swiss franc rate is currently at a level of over 10% above that pertaining on 1 January 1981. In the light of this development, and bearing in mind that the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve is likely in future to be the only means of covering exchange differences, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve should be retained at a minimum level of SFr 2.0 million, and reviewed annually in light of the previous year's experience and current expectations based on the best advice available, including that of the Investment Advisory Group.

3. Minimum Fund Balances

Introduction

The Executive Committee in September 1979 (Minutes, p. 41) stated that: "It would be advisable for sub-units possessing fund balances to retain within their funds an amount approximating to three months' operating costs. 'Operating costs' should exclude projects and exceptional items. ... Probably minimum operating balances should be used only in the event of a temporary crisis, which could be defined as one in which the balances used are expected to be refunded by the end of the succeeding financial year."

A study was requested on "the means available for establishing minimum fund balances". The request for such a study

was reaffirmed by the Central Committee in August 1980. The results of the study have been reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee, and are now presented to the Executive Committee.

Available fund balances

The fund balances available as "minimum operating balances", as at 31 December 1979, have been established by each sub-unit and were considered by the Finance Sub-Committee.

It was noted that the only balance available for sub-units dependent on undesignated income is the Operating Balance.

Basis of calculation of minimum operating balance

The Finance Sub-Committee believes that the approved annual budget should be taken as the basis for calculating operating costs, that is the costs which include payment for centrally-incurred services, and agreed transfers or guarantees to other sub-units, as these are all part of normal commitments.

On the basis of the approved 1980 budget a calculation has been made of the length of time which the "operating balance" of that sub-unit would last. The period varies from 1½ months (for CICARWS) to over one year (for CMC).

In the case of sub-units dependent on undesignated income, the Operating Balance at 31 December 1979 would cover a period of about 1½ months of the total budgets substantially dependent on CCT income.

Due to greater stabilization in currency exchange rates, and with the change to monthly fixed accounting rates beginning in 1981, the Finance Sub-Committee does not believe that a minimum fund balance of three months' operating costs is necessary. Unless there is a marked deterioration in foreign currency markets, it would seem that a balance equivalent to one month's operating costs is an absolute minimum level. In order to allow a small margin above this "absolute minimum" level, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends a figure of ten per cent of annual operating budget as the basic guideline for fund balances. The Executive Committee indicated in 1979 that minimum operating balances should be used only in the event of a temporary crisis, in which the balances used would have to be refunded by the end of the succeeding financial year.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the goal for the operating balance be 15% of the annual budget.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that authorization to reduce operating fund balances below the minimum level shall be granted only by action of the Finance Sub-Committee or

by the WCC Officers in consultation with the Moderator of the Finance Sub-Committee. The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that as a guideline to sub-units, any reduction of operating funds below the minimum level should only be used for non-recurring expenses.

"Operating fund balances" shall be defined as unrestricted fund balances available for covering operating budgets. In the case of operating budgets wholly or substantially dependent on undesignated income the Operating Balance shall be meant.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

4. Distribution of Costs for Various Services

The Central Committee in August 1980 affirmed a request made by the Executive Committee for a report on the distribution of costs for various services, with a view to creating a more equitable sharing of these costs and to solving the problem of the imbalance between the Council's designated and undesignated income.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that, in addition to distributing the costs for Upkeep, Finance and General Services previously distributed, it would be reasonable also to distribute the following costs which directly or indirectly benefit individual sub-units of the Council.

Balance of Library costs (part of General Services)
There seems to be no logical reason for not distributing the balance of Library costs, which have previously been covered by undesignated income.

Conference Secretary
The office of the Conference Secretary serves the whole of the WCC. The whole cost has previously been met by undesignated income.

OICD
The costs of the Office for Income Coordination and Development are currently partially met by designated income. There seems good reason for the balance to be shared among all programme budgets.

Net cost of Language Service (Communications)
An in-house Language Service is maintained for the benefit of all sub-units. A system of internal billing covers a part of the costs but the balance has been previously met from undesignated income. It is recommended that the overall cost of the Service should be spread over all budgets.

Director's Office (Communications)
Certain other aspects of the Communication Department serve the needs of all sub-units. These include the services of the Director's Office which should, therefore, be distributed.

News and Information (Communications)
The News and Information Service equally serves the whole Council and its sub-units.

Total additional amount proposed for distribution:
SFr 2,030,000 *.
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* It should be noted that some budgets have made transfers to the Communication Department. These transfers, totalling SFr 730,000, would be eliminated if the distribution proposals are accepted.

It is realised that WCC Governing Bodies is a central budget of the WCC. One or two sub-units have already made specific transfers to support it. The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that all budgets should be asked to support WCC Governing Bodies by contribution - not by distribution but using the same basis as is used for distribution of centrally-incurred costs.

The Finance Sub-Committee considers that this revised system of distribution of central costs would be more equitable than the present system and that it would partly resolve the problem of imbalance between the Council's designated and undesignated income.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

5. Accounting Policy relating to Depreciation

The present accounting policies of the WCC are stated in the Annual Accounts. So far as depreciation is concerned they provide for "Depreciation of buildings and equipment on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets at annual rates of 2% for buildings, 20% for office furniture and 10% for equipment".

a) Furniture, Fittings, and Equipment
The practice which has been followed in the past has not been in accordance with the accounting policy, in that no amount has been provided for depreciation in the budgets. The cost of additions to the assets in any one financial year have, however, been charged against reserves.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that provision should be made in the budgets for such depreciation from 1981. It further recommends that depreciation of furniture, fittings

and equipment should be covered by the Operating Balance for the 1980 financial year.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

b) Land and Buildings
In the case of Land and Buildings, it has been the practice to charge the Property Fund with the amount of depreciation.

The Finance Sub-Committee has requested that further information and guidance should be provided, including information on the practice of some member churches, in order that further consideration can be given to this matter. It recommends that a report be prepared for study at the Central Committee Meeting in August 1981 and that in the meantime the present practice be continued for the 1980 Accounts.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

6. Cost of living Review

The present Staff Rules and Regulations provide for a cost of living review every six months.

Regulation IV 1.02 states:

> "The salary scale shall be reviewed twice a year on the basis of the cost of living index in Geneva as at 28 February and 31 August. If the cost of living has increased by 4% or more since the last revision the salary scale may be adapted effective as from April 1 and October 1."

The index as at 31 August 1979 was 179.4 points. On 31 January 1981 the index was 190.0 points which is an increase of 10.6 points or 5.9%. It is likely that this will increase further by 28 February.

In 1980 staff costs were SFr 17 million. In a full year a 5.9% increase would cost SFr 1 million. As any increase can only take effect from 1 April, this represents SFr 750,000.-- for 1981.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that total staff salaries be increased by an amount of 5.9% with effect from 1 April 1981. It further recommends that proposals for the implementation of this salary increase be approved by the Officers following consultation with the General Secretary.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The Finance Sub-Committee noted with approval that cost of living reviews will in future be based on the cost of living

index at 30 June and 31 December, which will give adequate time for consultation before recommendations are made to the Executive Committee.

7. Pension Increases

At the meeting held in February 1980 the Executive Committee agreed that each time a decision is made on cost of living increases for active staff, it also decide upon such increases as it may deem appropriate for pensions in payment. (Minutes, p. 34)

In the light of the recommendation on the cost of living increases to active staff proposed above, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that pensions paid from the WCC Retirement Fund be increased as of 1 April, 1980, by 4%. The Consulting Actuaries to the Retirement Fund have advised that such an increase would cost SFr 360,000 to SFr 400,000, but that this cost could be absorbed by the present actuarial reserve held in the Fund.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

8. Staff Benefits

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the financial implications of the proposed revised Staff Rules and Regulations due to be implemented on 1 March 1981 and found them acceptable.

9. Special Funding

Since August 1979, the Executive Committee authorized the search of Special Funding for:

a) The 1980 Consultation on the Churches' Response to Racism in the 1980s
b) The 1981 Consultation on the Community of Women and Men in the Church
c) Follow-up of the Conference on Faith, Science and the Future
d) Youth Target Programme
e) Programme on Disabled Persons
f) Development of OICD
g) Sixth Assembly

The funding situation of the above authorized items is as follows:

a) 1980 CONSULTATION ON THE CHURCHES' RESPONSE TO RACISM IN THE 1980s
In February 1980, the Executive Committee authorized an increase of SFr 100,000 beyond the SFr 500,000 previously authorized.

The total funding authorization level has been reached, and all consultation costs covered. This item is now removed from Special Funding category.

b) COMMUNITY STUDY ON WOMEN AND MEN IN THE CHURCH

The SFr 500,000 Special Funding authorization for the Community Study referred to the need for support for both the 1981 Study Desk and the International Consultation budgets. Funds have been received or firmly pledged in that amount.

Since the August 1980 Executive and Central Committee meetings, two cost elements have affected the budgets on which authorization had been given to seek this level of special funding.

These cost items are as follows:

i) Following Executive Committee instructions, inflation factors were added into the preliminary budget for the Study Desk as presented in August 1980. In the revised 1981 budget presently before this Executive, however, additional adjustments have been made following the formula of redistribution of service charges in order to address the internal imbalance in WCC budgets. The direct impact on CWMC has been to increase the Operating Budget for the current year by nearly SFr 44,000 over the level anticipated in 1979 when the approval for Special Funding was given.

ii) The CWMC Advisory Committee and staff involved themselves in careful scrutiny of the consultation budget itself during the fall of 1980 and noted the following changes since 1979:

a. Escalation of air fares affecting travel subsidies for Third World participation in Sheffield,

b. Local charges in Sheffield have doubled since the first estimate was given, due to inflation in Britain,

c. Calculation of local costs in Britain were based, in 1979, on an exchange rate which has altered considerably. Payments in British Pounds Sterling will require nearly forty percent more Swiss francs at present 1981 rates.

In considering the Consultation budget, staff has carefully trimmed the budget to partially compensate for costs increased beyond their control.

The Advisory Committee has requested the Executive Committee to authorize OICD to seek additional funding required to cover items previously budgeted and approved, due to alterations in cost as noted above.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that authorization be granted to OICD to seek extra special funding for the CWMC up to a maximum SFr 130,000 over the previously authorized level.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

c) FOLLOW-UP OF THE CONFERENCE ON FAITH, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE

The total authorized budget for the conference and follow-up was SFr 1.4 million. All of these funds have been received and/or firmly pledged, and follow-up costs have been fully covered. This item is no longer in the Special Funding category.

d) YOUTH TARGET PROGRAMME

The special funding authorization in the amount of SFr 500,000 for regional youth gatherings was given with the understanding that only those meetings be planned for which funding is assured. The present income situation has not changed during 1980. One of the regional youth meetings has already been held in Botswana, the expenses of which were covered by target programme income received, a small balance of which remains. Further income is expected in 1981.

e) PROGRAMME ON DISABLED PERSONS

A special funding authorization was given for SFr 150,000 for this programme by the Executive Committee at its February 1980 meeting. This sum has now been received, removing this item from the Special Funding category.

f) THE DEVELOPMENT OF OICD

In August 1980 the Central Committee adopted clear budgeting procedures in relation to so-called "Special Funding", and OICD is no longer included in this category, having reduced its budget and being included in the overall budgeting procedures of the World Council for 1981 and following.

g) SIXTH ASSEMBLY

In August 1980 the Central Committee authorized that approaches for the funding of the Sixth Assembly be made to member churches for a total amount of SFr 5.5 million.

OICD has included special askings for the Assembly in the course of 1981, 1982, 1983 askings and preliminary budget planning. Certain funds have already been received to-

ward Assembly fund, but the full askings strategies and procedures will be refined for reporting to the Dresden Central Committee in August 1981.

Of the seven items selected for Special Funding since August 1979, only the Community Study, Youth Target Programme and the Sixth Assembly remain. CWMC, as noted above, will be completed by year-end 1981.

The above report represents Special Funding received and/or firmly pledged to date in excess of SFr 3,000,000.

The Executive Committee agreed that appreciation be expressed for the churches and agencies whose positive responses to OICD's appeals have permitted the above results.

10. Income Projections for 1981, 1982 and 1983

Undesignated income

In 1981 undesignated income is expected to increase to SFr 5,300,000. In 1982 and 1983, undesignated income is expected to increase by 3.8% over 1981 and by 3.6% over 1982.

This relatively conservative estimate is below the Swiss inflation rate (approx. 4.5% per annum). However, it takes into account the following facts and considerations (that have marked the 1978-1980 period and will affect 1981):

The EKD has decided to freeze its level of undesignated giving to the Council.

Many of the US churches will not increase sizeably the levels of their undesignated contributions to the Council.

On the other hand, the other churches have taken up the challenge posed by the financial difficulties of the Council quite seriously and have consistently increased their support. From 1978 to 1980, the increase has been almost 22%. One would hope that this encouraging trend could incite the US and German churches to review their own support policy to the Council.

Total income projections

In 1981, the total projected income is estimated at SFr 28,267,958 compared to a total budget of SFr 30,010,377.

The major part of this projected income corresponds to funds that will be received designated by the donors for a specific programme or sub-unit of the Council. These programme funds are estimated at SFr 20,034,384 (a 2.8% per annum growth rate).

Although such a rate is lower than the Swiss inflation rate, such a projection is deemed to be realistic in view of the

general trend in church giving patterns observed both in North America and Europe. Indeed, the trends show a growing share of more and more precise designation of grants by donors. Considerable amounts seem to be available in the WCC constituency for specific projects. The WCC project system has grown from approximately SFr 65 million in 1979 to over SFr 100 million in 1980. However, such funds do not appear to be as readily available for the Council's programmes. The encouragement to the churches to increase their giving to the Council in a more balanced way is part of a continuing struggle that will require a stronger emphasis in the future. In this connection, it is hoped that the May 1981 Finance Consultation will envisage and recommend actions to be taken to provide a more balanced distribution of funds received by the Council in the coming years.

Total income for 1982 and 1983 is anticipated to increase at a rate of approximately 1% per year. This prudent projection reflects the fact that a very sizeable financial effort will be made by the WCC constituency for the Sixth Assembly in Vancouver.

Inter-Unit Transfers and Guarantees

However, because of the trends, some sub-units that have traditionally supported other sub-units have envisaged reductions in such transfers. Until enough designated funds can be raised to support such sub-units that are dependent on internal transfers, it is recommended that the Executive Committee adopt the following policy on internal transfers:

> The Executive Committee has instructed OICD to aim at a progressive reduction of programme sub-unit dependency on inter-unit transfers by encouraging donors to increase direct support to such sub-units.
>
> Donors who decide to allocate funds directly to "receiving" sub-units and who reduce their allocation to the "transmitters" by the corresponding amount should therefore be requested to indicate this in writing to WCC so that the "transmitting" sub-unit in turn can reduce its transfers by the same amount. Without this notification from the donor, the transmitting sub-unit is not authorized to reduce its budgeted transfer amount at the end of a budget year. From one budget year to another reductions in inter-unit transfer amounts can only be authorized by the Executive Committee or the Central Committee, whichever meets earlier after the reduction proposal is made.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

The Finance Sub-Committee was made aware of a proposal for giving general guarantees to replace previous inter-unit transfers or specific guarantees.

Without wishing to deviate from the general policy outlined above, the Finance Sub-Committee welcomes this initiative, especially as the implementation of such guarantees would have the effect of placing additional undesignated funds at the disposal of the Council.

11. 1981 Budget Review

At the Central Committee meeting held in August 1980, the 1981 proposed budget was approved subject to review by the Executive Committee in February 1981 in the light of the outcome of the 1980 financial year (Minutes, p. 114).

Subsequently 1981 estimated income and 1981 expenditure have been reviewed by the Staff Finance Policy Group and a number of adjustments have been made. These revisions do not result in total budgets which conform to the request of Central Committee, namely "to reduce the 'CCT' deficit in 1981 to a maximum level of SFr 700,000".

In considering the problems posed by the budgets, not only for 1981, but also and even more particularly for 1982 and 1983, the staff has studied a number of options for achieving the objectives laid down by Central Committee. These options have been reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee.

The Finance Sub-Committee has also reviewed the 1981 approved budget in the light of a proposed budget for 1982, a preliminary budget for 1983, and the goal of ensuring a sound financial position by the time of the Sixth Assembly. Pursuant to their review and in light of the new policies on Exchange Fluctuation Reserve, Minimum Fund Balances, and Distribution of costs for various services, the Finance Sub-Committee makes the following recommendations:

- that the Executive Committee approve the utilisation of up to SFr 200,000 from the Operating Fund Balance and up to SFr 200,000 from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve in order to reduce the shortfall in undesignated income in the 1981 budget from an anticipated level of SFr 715,000 to SFr 315,000;

- that staff be urged to find means for covering the remaining SFr 315,000 shortfall in the 1981 budget;

- that the Executive Committee reaffirm the 1981 budget as modified.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

12. 1982 Proposed Budgets

In the light of 1980 Central Committee actions, the Finance Sub-Committee has considered the 1982 proposed budgets which show a shortfall in undesignated income of SFr 0.95 million. It is the judgment of the Finance Sub-Committee that it is not possible to comply with the Central Committee's mandate for a balanced 1982 budget based on present programmes, policies and working methods.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that reconsideration be given to previous Review Committee recommendations concerning programme and structure realignment with the clear intention of effecting significant financial savings.

The Finance Sub-Committee has given special attention to the possibility of allocating undesignated income in view of the inadequacy of the present process inasmuch as this is the area of the expense budget where the problem is most serious. The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the General Secretariat be requested to develop and bring to the Executive Committee in August a plan whereby the undesignated income may be allocated in line with the level of that income. The proposed new process of allocation of undesignated income should include the criteria used in determining the amount for each sub-unit.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee authorize the utilisation in 1982 if necessary of an amount of up to SFr 500,000 from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve to reduce the anticipated shortfall in undesignated income in that year.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

13. Pre-Assembly Travel

The Finance Sub-Committee has received information on staff efforts to identify funds for the pre-Assembly travel budget.

The Finance Sub-Committee has considered the possibility of using part of the pre-Assembly travel budget to balance the 1982 budget. The Finance Sub-Committee believes, however, that it is important to keep faith with the Central Committee's intention that amounts equivalent to those used in 1981 for meetings and consultations be made available in 1982 and 1983 in order to make possible ecumenical travel and team visits to the churches.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee reaffirm the action of the Officers in authorizing that each sub-unit be permitted to budget in 1982 up to SFr 20,000 for the purpose of any necessary small meetings of sub-unit executive groups.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that a firm proposal on the amount of funds available for pre-Assembly travel be brought to the Central Committee in August 1981 with advice on the proposed methods of managing these funds.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

14. 1983 Preliminary Budgets

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed 1983 preliminary budgets which showed a shortfall in undesignated income of SFr 1.3 million.

Recognizing the intention to present final 1983 Budgets that showed a balanced position, the Finance Sub-Committee considered that this could only be done subsequent to the proposals requested from the General Secretariat in respect of the allocation of undesignated income within the level of that estimated income.

15. New York Office Budgets

At the present time, the New York Office budget is voted upon by the US Conference Board. The World Council of Churches transfers two contributions to the NY Office, one undesignated (SFr 145,000) and the other designated from the Communication Department's budget (SFr 33,000). These transfers have up to now been increased by the Geneva rate of inflation.

In effect, this has resulted in progressive reductions of the means available to the staff nominated by the Central Committee in the NY Office, to a point where there is a distortion between the quality of the staff and the means at their disposal to operate properly.

In view of the preparation of the Sixth Assembly and of the special responsibilities and tasks that may be expected from the New York staff, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that a closer integration of the NY Office budget into the WCC budget be explored with the US Conference and the General Secretariat consider the programmatic aspects of the NY Office as related to a possible increased budget responsibility of the WCC.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

16. Premises

a) Additional building

The Executive Committee in August 1980 agreed to purchase and erect a building adjacent to the Rhône Wing as an alternative to expanding the existing buildings. Total costs of up to SFr 200,000 were approved for this purpose. (Minutes, p. 31)

Subsequently, advice was received that the total cost would be SFr 315,000, the increase being due to much higher foundation costs and the need to carry out additional work to comply with conditions laid down by the Geneva authorities. It was established that an alternative building of similar size, construction and appearance but with rooms of more acceptable dimensions could be purchased at a total inclusive cost of SFr 440,000.

The WCC Officers and Moderator of the Finance Committee agreed to the revised proposals which maintained the principle laid down by the Executive Committee but went beyond the authorized expenditure. On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee reaffirmed this decision.

The total cost of the building will be amortised over five years beginning in 1981 and the annual amortisation recovered through the process of internal charges.

b) Lease of offices held in Château Pictet

In September 1978 the Executive Committee agreed to authorize the signing of a lease for office space on the second floor of the Château Pictet for a period of three years to October 1981. Part of the available space is sub-let to the WSCF Europe Office, part is used as an "Open House" which provides meeting and handicraft rooms, especially for women connected with the Ecumenical Centre.

Of the total rent of SFr 18,000 per annum, a maximum of SFr 9,000 would be payable by the Council. These costs together with a share of overheads such as heating, would, as hitherto, be recovered through the process of internal charging.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the lease of the offices be renewed for a further period of three years to October 1984.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

17. Investment Advisory Group

The Investment Advisory Group has continued to meet on a quarterly basis during 1980, and to give advice to staff on other occasions as required.

a) Mandate

The Group was created at the request of the Executive Committee in 1976. Its mandate was never clearly set out, in either minutes or correspondence, and, with the likelihood of its membership being reconstituted in the near future, it seems desirable to try to express its role in the life of the Council.

The following mandate is recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee:

The Investment Advisory Group is appointed by and responsible to the Executive Committee. Its membership should be at least four but no more than six. Meetings of the Group will normally be held quarterly but more frequently at the request of the Moderator.

The functions of the Investment Advisory Group can be summarized as follows:

i) To give advice to the responsible staff of the WCC, and to the Executive Committee of the WCC, on the investment of the assets of the WCC, with special reference to the security of such investments, their effective management, and the achievement of a reasonable return on the investments.

ii) To review on a regular basis (at least quarterly) the performance of any existing investment portfolios, and to recommend any major investment policy changes.

iii) To provide advice (usually quarterly, but more frequently if circumstances make it necessary) on the development of interest and foreign exchange rates. Such advice is required in relation to most major currencies but more especially in relation to US dollars, Swiss francs and D-Marks.

iv) To give guidance to the WCC on the establishment of exchange rates for use in establishing operating budgets, and in other operations, and on the level of its Exchange Fluctuation Reserve.

v) To make recommendations on any other relevant investment or financial matters.

vi) To have contact with the Officers of the WCC on any matters which it wishes to raise with them.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

b) Membership

The Finance Sub-Committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Henry Wieser, who has acted as Moderator, and to Mr. Robin Davies and Mr. Eugène Servais for their valuable assistance to the Council as members of the Investment Advisory Group since its inception.

The Finance Sub-Committee has approved the steps actively being taken to restore the membership of the Investment Advisory Group to a minimum level and anticipates recommending names for formal appointment to the Executive Committee in August 1981.

18. Agenda for Finance Consultation, May 4-6, 1981

The Finance Sub-Committee gave consideration to a preliminary draft agenda for the Finance Consultation to be held May 4-6, 1981 in Geneva. A report on the Consultation will be given to the Executive Committee in August 1981.

19. Financial Implications of Staff Appointments

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the financial implications of staff appointments approved by the Staffing Sub-Committee.

20. Provident and Retirement Fund Boards Meeting

Matters arising from the meeting of the Provident and Retirement Fund Boards on 9 February 1981 were reported, in particular:

a) The adoption of a revised basis for calculating the actuarial reserves held by the Funds;

b) The implementation of a policy of global investment of Provident Fund monies, instead of in individual deposit accounts.

The nomination of Mr. Archie Turnbull as a member of the Board of the Provident Fund was also reported. In accordance with normal practice, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that Mr. Archie Turnbull be appointed a member of the Board of the Retirement and Social Welfare Fund for a period of three years to February 1984.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that Mr. Harry Ashmall be appointed a member of both the Board of the Provident Fund and the Board of the Retirement and Social Welfare Fund for a period of three years to February 1984.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

21. Banks doing business in South Africa

The Central Committee adopted a policy in 1972 against "the deposit of WCC funds in banks which maintain direct banking operations in South Africa." The Executive Committee in August 1980 took actions to up-date information on investments and banking in South Africa. Pursuant to Executive Committee actions, the Assistant General Secretary has corresponded with the banks in which the WCC has deposits, reminding them of WCC policy, and informing them of WCC concern and seeking information from them on their policy in South Africa. The Programme to Combat Racism staff has developed criteria which could serve as a guide in the application of WCC policy on banking in South Africa.

The Finance Sub-Committee has received and considered the information from staff, including proposed criteria and background material. The Finance Sub-Committee believes that the criteria are consistent with WCC policy, and are adequate for assisting the WCC in reaching responsible decisions.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends the adoption of the criteria listed and described below as guidelines to the selection and use of banking deposit facilities and the continuation of banking relationships by the WCC.

a) Bank maintains facilities in South Africa
This includes the bank having a branch or representative office.

b) Bank regularly appears as a "manager" of loans and/or bond issues to South Africa
This means recognizing that banks play a leading role as 'managers' as opposed to 'participants', take a larger portion of the loans and/or bond issues and also receive a larger share of the fees in return.

c) Bank has continued substantive lending since the events of Soweto - 1976
1976 marked a clear statement by the African majority that it rejected apartheid. In turn Soweto accelerated international concern about South Africa. Loans, private and public, since that time are generally done quietly and secretly with the lenders' awareness that they act in defiance of public pressure, moral opinion, and sometimes law.

d) Bank grants loans having direct/indirect military purpose
This involves loans or bonds going to the government itself, to the Defence Department or related bodies such as the South African Airways (SAA), the Strategic Oil Fund (SOF), the State Arms Procurement Agency (ARMSCOR) or the South African Railways and Harbours Authority (SARH).

e) Bank makes loans which benefit the nuclear industry
Many loans are made to ESCOM (the Electricity Supply Commission of South Africa) which wholly handles all nuclear energy questions in the country.

The Executive Committee adopted the above criteria. In addition it agreed that relationships with banks may be continued if they have publicly stated a policy of no loans to the Government of South Africa and its agencies, and openly maintain such a policy.

In discussion of the above criteria the Finance Sub-Committee proposes the following as to how the work on this matter should proceed.

The Sub-Committee recommends

i) that subsequent to the Executive Committee meeting the Acting General Secretary communicate to all member churches actions taken at this meeting, including a description of the process being followed, and inquire of their on-going experiences in the matter.

ii) that the Acting General Secretary be requested to advise the member churches of any country where specific enquiries about banks are being made, in the most appropriate manner on the process and developments in this matter.

iii) that the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration be requested to continue correspondence with banks with which the WCC places deposits providing them with a copy of the above criteria, and requesting responses as to the status of their particular bank in the light of the criteria.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends

- that the Acting General Secretary establish the necessary staff process in order to present to the Executive Committee in August

i) the results of the application of the criteria

ii) specific recommendations as to banks from which the WCC funds should be withdrawn, and

iii) alternative banking services for those discontinued.

- That in applying the criteria it is possible for each criterion to stand alone; however the desire of the WCC with regard to banks doing business in South Africa is to bring about positive change, and therefore judgment as to the total degree of involvement should be considered.

- That the Officers of the WCC and the Moderator of the Finance Sub-Committee be kept advised on any significant development in the above process.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The Finance Sub-Committee requests the General Secretary to ensure adequate WCC representation at the UN Banking Seminar proposed for WCC sponsorship and which is related to the issue of banking with South Africa.

The Executive Committee endorsed this request.

The Finance Sub-Committee wishes to note with thanks the interest and assistance provided by the PCR Commission in this area.

The Finance Sub-Committee records its thanks for the excellent work done by staff which has contributed significantly to the progress thus far.

22. Endowment Funds

The accounting policies of the World Council of Churches provide for assets of the Council to be "maintained and reported on an undesignated basis". Income received from the investment of all assets is credited to the funds held by the Council "on a proportional basis".

Proposals have been discussed with the Investment Advisory Group regarding the separation of investments related to the Endowment Funds of the Council, with particular reference to the largest of these funds which is held on behalf of the Ecumenical Institute.

The Finance Sub-Committee recognizes the special nature of Endowment Funds, and the need both to preserve the security of capital invested, and to maximise the return on that capital. Moreover, in the case of the Ecumenical Institute Endowment Fund, the Finance Sub-Committee appreciates that an increase in income earned on this Fund may reduce the dependency of the Institute on the Council's undesignated income.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that further studies be undertaken, in consultation with the Investment Advisory Group, the Audit Committee, the Board of the Ecumenical Institute and other endowment fund holders, with a view to identifying specific investments for the Endowment Funds of the Council, and requests that proposals be brought to the Central Committee in August, 1981.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

23. Involvement of Commissions and Working Groups

The Finance Sub-Committee appreciates the attention given by Commissions and Working Groups to the budgets of the sub-units with which they are related, and in particular the efforts which they have made to present balanced budgets for 1982 and 1983. The Finance Sub-Committee recognizes that some of the recommendations made in its Report will adversely effect the expense budgets of some sub-units in those years. It therefore requests the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration to convey to Commissions and Working Groups full information on the relevant proposals made by the Finance

Sub-Committee and adopted by the Executive Committee including the rationale for those proposals in the context of the Central Committee's aim of a stable financial situation by the time of the Sixth Assembly.

The presence of representatives of Commissions and Working Groups at the Finance Consultation in May 1981 will afford an opportunity for members of the Finance Sub-Committee and staff to discuss these concerns further.

24. Thanks

The Finance Sub-Committee wishes to express its special thanks to the staff responsible for finances within the Council, and takes note of the exceptional preparation which staff made for the work of the Sub-Committee.

The Executive Committee adopted the report of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Procedures for Future Meetings

It was agreed that it would be helpful at future meetings of the Executive Committee if a financial overview could be presented at the beginning of the meeting in the context of which programme decisions could be taken.

12. PREPARATIONS FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Perkins presented the proposed programme. The opening service would be on Sunday evening, 16 August. Three plenary sessions were planned on a) The Community of Women and Men in the Church; b) The Christian Medical Commission; c) Concerns for an integrated community, including questions of family, children and disabled persons. There would also be a presentation by the churches in the GDR. A staff group would work on worship plans with the host church in Dresden. A circular regarding travel arrangements would be sent to all participants.

Bishop Hempel referred to the Ecumenical Weekend which would allow participants to have contacts with churches in the GDR; many congregations had asked for a visit.

13. RULES OF DEBATE AND PROCEDURE

Mr. Moss reported on the work of a staff group set up by the General Secretary to reconsider the rules of debate for Central Committee. He asked what were the specific points of difficulty in the present rules, and how these difficulties reflected language barriers, geographical/cultural differences,

and confessional or institutional patterns. He offered a number of alternative solutions.

After discussion, it was agreed that the present rules should be simplified, rather than totally revised. The staff group should submit proposals to the Executive Committee for simplified rules that might be introduced at the next Central Committee meeting.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates for meetings of the Executive and Central Committees were noted:

14-16 August 1981 (arrival 13 August)	Executive Committee	Dresden, GDR
17-26 August 1981 (opening service 16 August)	Central Committee	Dresden, GDR
15-19 February 1982 (arrival 14 February)	Executive Committee	probably Geneva
15-17 July 1982 (arrival 14 July)	Executive Committee	Geneva
19-28 July 1982	Central Committee	Geneva
28 February - 4 March 1983 (arrival 27 February)	Executive Committee	Geneva
21-23 July 1983 (arrival 20 July)	Executive Committee	Vancouver, Canada

Dr. Raiser expressed gratitude to Archbishop Sundby for trying to make it possible for the WCC to accept the invitation to hold the Central Committee meeting in 1982 in Sweden.

15. CLOSING ACTIONS

Dr. Wedel paid tribute to Prof. Barkat, who would be resigning from the Executive Committee on his appointment to the staff. He had made a great contribution, particularly as Moderator of Unit II and in the Review Committee.

Dr. Simatupang led the closing act of worship.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr. W.A. Visser't Hooft
Presidents:	Hon. Mrs. Justice A.R. Jiagge His Holiness Iliya II Dr. T.B. Simatupang Most Rev. O. Sundby Dr. C. Wedel
Officers:	Most Rev. E.W. Scott (Moderator) His Holiness Karekin II (Vice-Moderator) Ms. J. Skuse (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr. K. Raiser (Acting General Secretary)
Members:	His Eminence Bishop Antonie (Plamadeala) Mr. H.A. Ashmall Prof. Dr. A.M. Barkat Mr. Bena-Silu His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos (12-13 February) Rev. J.G. Gatu His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Bishop Dr. H.H. Harms Bishop Dr. J.W. Hempel Rev. Dr. Won Yong Kang His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Gundayayev) Rev. J.M. Leite Rev. Dr. J.O. McCloud Rev. Dr. D.W. Preus Ms. D. Sampath Ms. P. Webb
Guests:	His Eminence Archbishop Nikolozi (Makharadze) of Sukhumi and Abuhazia Deacon Zeurat Siradze
Observer:	Protopresbyter V. Borovoy
Staff:	Rev. Dr. P. Abrecht Ms. M. Assaad Rev. Dr. U. Becker Rev. A. van der Bent Rev. J. Bluck Rev. Dr. K. Bridston Mr. P. Coïdan Mr. T. Davies Mr. J. Fischer

Staff (continued):	Dr. K. Hertz
	Mr. W. Kenworthy
	Dr. S. Kingma
	Mr. N. Koshy
	Rev. Dr. W. Lazareth
	Ms. M. Meinertz
	Mr. P. Moss
	Mr. R.W. Nesbitt
	Mr. L.J. Niilus
	Rev. Dr. C. Parvey
	Rev. W. Perkins
	Prof. T. Sabev
	Rev. Dr. J. de Santa Ana
	Rev. A. Sapsezian
	Dr. B. Sjollema
	Canon D. Tatchell
	Dr. J.B. Taylor
	Rev. G. Todd
	Dr. R. Traitler
	Fr. G. Tsetsis
	Rev. B. von Wartenberg
Interpreters:	Mr. A. Chijov
	Ms. I. Friedeberg
	Mr. B. Gagous
	Ms. R. Ginglas-Poulet
Minute writer:	Ms. A. Burrows
Administration:	Ms. R. Green
	Ms. A. Hoppe
	Ms. A. Pavlic-Keller
	Ms. B. Thaler

APOLOGIES:

President:	Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Officer:	Rev. Dr. P.A. Potter (General Secretary)

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr. J.O. McCloud (Moderator)
His Eminence Bishop Antonie (Plamadeala)
Mr. H.A. Ashmall
Prof. Dr. A.M. Barkat
Mr. Bena-Silu
Bishop Dr. H.H. Harms
Dr. C. Wedel

Sub-Committee on Programme

His Holiness Karekin II (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Rev. J.G. Gatu
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr. J.W. Hempel
His Holiness Iliya II
Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Rev. Dr. D.W. Preus
Most Rev. O. Sundby
Ms. P. Webb

Sub-Committee on Staffing and Nominations

Ms. J. Skuse (Moderator)
Hon. Mrs. Justice A.R. Jiagge
Rev. Dr. Won Yong Kang
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill
Rev. J.M. Leite
Ms. D. Sampath
Dr. T.B. Simatupang

APPENDIX III

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS COMMITTEE

The Assembly Preparations Committee had its first full meeting 6-8 February 1981 in Geneva. All members of the Committee were present:

Ms. Pauline Webb, Moderator
Mr. Bena-Silu
Dr. Arie Brouwer
Rt. Rev. Jabez Bryce
Ms. Ana B. Ferrari
Dr. Won Yong Kang
H.E. Archbishop Kirill
Bishop Per Lønning
Ms. Evelyn Mahlatsi
H.E. Metropolitan Parthenios
Ms. Waltraut Peper
H.G. Bishop Samuel
Rev. Dr. Sutarno
Ms. Barbara Thompson
Dr. Robert Wallace

We were greatly helped by the staff work that had been done and the seven papers that had been prepared. We were encouraged to see the commitment of the staff to Assembly preparation that this represented and to know that this task is seen as a priority and not an interruption in other work.

This report to the Executive Committee represents the results of our deliberations on the matters referred to the Assembly Preparations Committee by Central Committee 1980. Many of these aspects of Assembly preparations, together with others, will be presented in more detail to the Central Committee in August.

Future meetings of the Committee are scheduled as follows:

11-13 August 1981	Bad Saarow, GDR
29 October - 2 November 1981	Vancouver
July 1982	Geneva
early 1983	

I. ASSEMBLY THEME - BIBLE STUDIES

The Assembly Preparations Committee discussed Document no. 2* and participated in two Bible studies on the images of "water" and "way" in relation to the Assembly theme.

1. It unanimously agrees with the proposal that the Bible studies should explore the main theme through a series of biblical

images. It also notes that the choice of images and related biblical texts in Document no. 2 is still very tentative. It must be reviewed, changed and expanded by the planned meeting of Bible study people. We would hope for five to seven Bible studies.

2. With regard to the choice of images the Committee asked that attention be given to the distinction between an immediately biblical and a biblically constructed metaphor and also to the distinction between a directly christological image and an indirectly christological image.

   The Committee -

   a) fully agreed with the use of "way to life", "water of life" and "bread of life";

   b) rejected "mother of life" while welcoming the inclusion of a distinctive feminine image. No satisfactory alternative was found; discussion ranged around "womb of life" or "birth-pangs of life" or "birth and re-birth";

   c) agreed that the link between the main theme and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ must be emphasized, but it should be expressed through a biblical image, e.g. the "grain of wheat which must die to bear fruit", the "re-birth of life", the "cross of life" (although the latter is clearly more than an image);

   d) wished that the inclusion of still other images be considered, e.g. the "tree of life", the "door of life", the "blood of life";

   e) wished for images to be included that suggest the hiddenness of life in Christ (Col. 3:3).

3. The Committee agreed that each image should be accompanied by a selection of biblical texts, preferably more than those presently listed, but relatively short passages and for each image roughly the same amount of biblical material.

4. The preparatory material should not only propose a choice of images and biblical texts but also make suggestions for method of Bible study: What is the appropriate approach for studying and meditating a biblical image? How can the exploration of the images lead to action within a given situation today? Can we find new images for the Assembly theme within our own time and culture? What do these images say about our relation to people of other faiths and of no faiths?

A. In offering these suggestions for pre-Assembly biblical reflection, three important aspects were borne in mind:

i. following the concerns raised by many persons who had been involved in studying the Assembly theme within various WCC sub-unit groups, it was felt that the approach taken must allow for varying styles of Bible study. Attention must be given to the fact that there are very real differences in the way the task of Bible study will be undertaken according to regional, cultural, linguistic, ethnic and spiritual heritages;

ii. the biblical reflection on the theme must allow for the agenda of the local congregation, the member churches, the World Council of Churches and contemporary human issues to be addressed;

iii. the nature of the theme, with certain focus on the word 'life', invites many understandings and experiences to be brought into the discussion along with the biblical texts; therefore, it is anticipated that the studies will not be confined to strictly textual commentary but to a larger examination of the whole theme's implications.

After consideration of these aspects and a very full discussion of the possibilities for biblical studies, the Committee has agreed to support a series of studies based on "Images of Life". A proposed outline of such a series follows. These images are not necessarily a final, but rather a starting, list; other images should be considered.

B. Images of Life

A series of Bible studies for the Assembly theme: Jesus Christ - the Life of the World.

THE WAY OF LIFE or THE WAY TOWARDS LIFE
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 7:13-14
John 14:6

THE WATER OF LIFE or SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:1-12
John 4:7-15
Revelation 22:1-2

MOTHER OF LIFE or BIRTH OF LIFE *
Proverbs 8:1-31
I Corinthians 1:20-24
John 1:1-18
John 16:12-24

BREAD OF LIFE
Exodus 16:1-18
Matthew 4:1-11 or Mark 8:1-10
John 6:35-51 or 35-71

RESURRECTION OF LIFE
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Luke 24:1-11
John 11:17-53 or Revelation 1:17-18

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* The purpose of this image is to draw out the relationship between women and life; to recognize the link between 'Haiim' (life) and 'Havah' (woman). In Genesis 2:18-24 woman was created as a partner for man; only with this "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh" can man create community and escape from isolation, alienation and loneliness.

C. In endorsing this proposal, we record some features of this approach which commend it:

i. from a pedagogical point of view it is a very workable series since each part draws upon biblical literature which has a common theme and a natural relatedness;

ii. the use of the "images" model opens up many doors for varying cultures to identify with the imagery and to speak to their understandings;

iii. the "images" model and the texts supporting them allow for detailed study, if desired, but also provide points at which the issues and concerns of the world (and the Assembly) will arise to be seen in the light of the theme;

iv. the 'visual' form of approach has within it deep and rich potentialities (which have been appreciated in iconography for many Christian centuries) both for mental, spiritual and aesthetic nourishment and understanding that a purely 'mental' approach is unable to convey.

It is hoped that in the drafting of the Bible studies, certain considerations will be borne in mind:

i. the notion of "images" should not be taken too literally or conventionally, for it would undermine the whole intention if the process of study broke down over the limitation of only one or too few mental or visual pictures of the "image";

ii. the study material should strongly portray the issues of major WCC concerns through the examination of the "images";

iii. the biblical material should raise cultural questions and predict the possibilities that can arise when the theme is seen by people of differing backgrounds;

iv. this approach has significant consequences for the style of communication.

D. The following process is proposed for development of the Bible studies for publication and circulation:

In preparation for the next meeting of the Assembly Preparations Committee, staff would prepare a meeting of Bible study persons to work with the texts and prepare a set of Bible study notes for its consideration and for recommendation to Central Committee. The Communication Department would give special attention to the implications of the "images" approach.

After approval by Central Committee, the basic text would be widely distributed for adaptation and translation in regional, national and local situations.

II. PROGRAMME OF CONSULTATIONS AND VISITS

1. Introduction

An Assembly is the gathering of all member churches of the WCC through their delegated representatives. It is a place where the promises, hopes and joys of the gospel are celebrated, where issues and problems present in the lives of the churches are reflected upon, where programmes of the WCC are assessed, where new policies are developed and where a common Christian commitment is strengthened and inspired. It is a place of worship and work, of anticipating in obedience and joy the unity in Christ and the unity of all humanity we all desire.

Fundamentally, the Assembly is an event of the churches themselves, and they must participate in the broadest way possible, in reflecting on the theme, in preparing the agenda, in suggesting style and process of the Assembly. Aware of the limitations of communication and consultation among an international community, based in different local situations, which make this difficult to achieve, the Central Committee in 1980 gave attention to designing the Assembly in the most participative and consultative style. It decided that the Assembly should begin with an extensive programme of consultation and visitation as an integral part of the Assembly. Therefore it can be said that the WCC will begin to gather in Assembly already in 1982.

2. The purpose of visits

The basic purpose of the visits and consultations is to enable churches to be more directly and more comprehensively involved in the Assembly than is possible through their delegates alone. The visits and consultations are an invitation to the membership of all our churches to share in the common

life and witness of member churches from all parts of the world which their delegates will experience in the Sixth Assembly at Vancouver.

In order to accomplish this purpose, the visits should provide opportunity for:

i. reflecting on the meaning of the theme and the major concerns deriving from it in the particular situations of member churches and for sharing the problems, hopes and joys of both the churches visited and visiting;

ii. learning how the WCC serves as an instrument of the shared life and witness of the churches and for listening for ways in which it may better serve these purposes.

It is understood that this reflecting, sharing, learning and listening will vary greatly from visit to visit. In some cases representatives of the visiting churches will mostly share; in others they will mostly listen. Recognition of these visits as an integral and continuing part of the WCC's long-standing concern to bring into balance the traditional sending and receiving patterns of the church will offer some guidance for determining the particular nature of each visit. In all cases, joining together in worship should be an important part of the visit.

3. The nature of visits

Visits and encounters are not new in the ecumenical movement, but for a long time have been a most immediate and most effective means of communication. Many member churches, often on a confessional basis, have their own programmes of visitation and consultation. The WCC has itself arranged a number of ecumenical team visits. All staff travel can be seen as part of a visitation process, although often such visits are to specific meetings or constituency groups and not officially to member churches.

It is essential to this pre-Assembly process that the churches be visited, and that all churches be included in some way. While team visits (of at least two persons) would be most effective, in some cases a visit may be made by one individual. We do not discourage visits within confessional families, but emphasize that the process of pre-Assembly ecumenical visitation presupposes the crossing of confessional lines and urge that in the next two years confessionally organized visits take this into account.

Ecumenical visits may be arranged:

i. in conjunction with events already planned by churches, national or regional bodies, or the WCC,

ii. by the WCC in response to requests from churches in a particular country or (sub)region,

iii. by the churches themselves in a given area/country (with or without WCC assistance) on the invitation of other churches.

3.1 Models for visits

A few examples are offered. They should not be seen as limiting but rather as illustrative.

A team might meet with the leaders of the churches in a given country along with the delegates to the Sixth Assembly and the leaders of the national council and as many other people of the churches as possible, which might be responsible for arranging the visit. The visiting team should also make some provision for involvement with local congregations. If the team were large enough, it could divide for these local visits.

Visits might also be related to denominational gatherings either in official assemblies or in lay or pastors' gatherings. In such cases the team visit should wherever possible be more than a presence but rather an integral part of the event which might make use of Assembly Bible study materials, provide opportunity for dialogue with the visiting team, etc.

Other possibilities include special events in the life of the churches, special historical celebrations, etc.

4. Towards a common framework

A common framework is essential for a truly ecumenical process of visitation and consultation in order to provide guidelines and criteria for all visits undertaken. The framework will include:

- priority areas for visits
- selection of visitors and members of teams
- local preparation
- WCC responsibilities
- staff preparation
- briefing/debriefing and feedback into the Assembly preparatory process.

Preliminary discussions with WCC sub-units and regional task forces have led to some conclusions, which will be the basis for further elaboration and planning, in the light of guidance from this meeting. Responses from member churches to the letter of invitation will also be taken into account.

4.1 Priority areas

Although it would be premature to mention specific places, the following criteria are relevant (not necessarily in order of priority):

- member churches that have never or rarely been visited by the WCC
- smaller churches and those in minority situations
- churches where an ecumenical visit would be an important sign of solidarity
- churches which express a desire for a visit.

Answers already received from member churches indicate that affluent and large churches are quicker to reply to the invitation than are smaller, poorer churches. Special attention therefore needs to be given especially to opportunities for Third World churches to participate. The availability of financial resources should not determine priorities for visits.

4.2 Selection of visitors and team members

Each team should include, as a minimum, a person deeply involved in the life and work of his or her own communion and another person broadly conversant with the life and work of the WCC. In most cases a third person should be included who is representative of the regional Council of Churches. The first person mentioned above will of course be from a church in another part of the world. Special attention should be given to the selection of persons who will bring into contact churches not previously related to one another.

As has already been indicated by Central Committee, the following can be considered a "pool" from which to draw visitors:

- suggestions from the churches
- Vancouver delegates
- Nairobi delegates
- members of Central Committee
- members of Commissions and Working Groups
- persons active in WCC-related networks
- former Bossey students/participants
- WCC staff.

Special criteria will be developed for the composition of ecumenical teams, based on WCC experience, for our own use and for the use of others planning to organize similar teams. Each group should represent as much as possible the rich diversity of the ecumenical fellowship, and the individuals should be carefully selected according to criteria such as:

- the religious, cultural, political, historical situation of the country being visited
- comparable experience or background
- sensitivity to particular issues or concerns
- language ability.

The guidelines for the composition of Assembly delegations provide basic criteria also for teams of visitors. Every team should include both men and women.

4.3 Local preparation

Inviting churches should be prepared to cooperate on an ecumenical basis with each other in planning the visit. It is not envisaged to send a team to visit one member church in a given country, and not the others! It is hoped that national councils will facilitate planning and participate as may be appropriate in their country.

Considerations should be given to opportunities for involvement, participation or contacts with non-member churches and church-related movements as may be appropriate in a given situation. It is also to be expected that fraternal organizations will share in the visitation and planning in appropriate ways.

A cross-section of the membership of the church(es) being visited should be involved for the widest possible participation. Visits should not only continue and strengthen communication with church leadership, but enlarge the network of those having personal contacts with the WCC, offer possibilities for ecumenical education at the level of local congregations, and lead to further local ecumenical relations and work. Exposure periods in local congregations and ecumenical groups, and not only in official conferences and synods, etc., are therefore desirable.

It will be the responsibility of the church(es) receiving visitors or a team to plan the local programme and arrangements. The WCC will develop guidelines and criteria to assist the churches in this local preparation.

4.4 WCC responsibilities

The WCC cannot obviously organize the entire process of visitation, and therefore hopes that churches will do most of their own planning as part of the pre-Assembly process. What the WCC can do is to:

- interpret the process as integral to the Assembly
- develop different models for visits
- coordinate scheduling in the context of Assembly preparation

- help find/select visitors and team members
- organize a limited number of team visits
- coordinate staff travel as part of the process
- assist financially to the extent necessary and possible.

4.5 Staff preparation

Major staff cooperation will be necessary to implement the plan and to organize a number of visits. Coordination will be the responsibility of the Assembly office, but there are several ways other staff will be able to share in planning:

- a sub-unit takes responsibility for the organization of one or more visits as part of its own programme
- one or more sub-units assign/second staff to work as a team in planning a visit, free of other duties for a limited time
- a regional task force assumes responsibility for organizing or planning one or more visits.

The content and agenda for a visit are to be determined in dialogue between sub-units participating and the church(es) to be visited. A holistic approach to the WCC and its work is assumed, even if the concerns of one or more sub-units may figure more prominently in a visit because of the area to be visited and the concerns proposed by the churches to be visited.

4.6 Briefing/debriefing and feedback

A set of questions for briefing and debriefing of staff and visitors, as well as a plan for reporting has yet to be developed in order to make it possible to compare the visits and their results, and for the Assembly Preparations Committee to receive important impulses and contributions for Assembly preparation and programme planning.

The visits and consultations will doubtless generate a great deal of material to be dealt with at the Assembly. Most of this information will come to the Assembly through the normal channels of the church delegates who may as a result of the visits be especially charged to address certain issues at the Assembly. Consideration should also be given to bringing into the Assembly the worship resources discovered and developed in the visits as well as the art, tradition and experiences of the churches including their witness to Jesus Christ - the Life of the World, in the face of suffering and death. Some of this may be accomplished in the plenary sessions; special exhibits and displays may also be useful, including poems, songs and stories.

5. Next steps

5.1 Follow-up to letter of invitation

In order to solicit a more balanced response to the invitation sent to the churches November 10, all staff will be asked to raise this issue with member churches when travelling, and a set of questions will be worked out to facilitate this process. Regional task forces have also agreed to follow up the invitation with churches in their regions. Central Committee members should also be asked to follow up the invitation with their own churches and others in their countries. Churches should be encouraged not only to receive visits, but to participate in visiting.

5.2 Sub-unit participation in 1981

Some sub-units, e.g. Education, Renewal, CMC, Church and Society, are planning "pilot" visits in connection with their Commission, Working Group, Officers or Executive Committee meetings in the areas where meetings will be held.

All Commissions and Working Groups will discuss Assembly preparation as part of their agenda, with a view to defining their particular contributions and the nature of their cooperation in the process.

Some sub-units and task forces (e.g. CCPD, CWME, Orthodox Task Force) will organize Bible studies and reflections on the theme.

In order to facilitate these sub-unit plans and situate them clearly in the context of Assembly preparation, a kit needs to be prepared, containing preliminary information about the Assembly and a comprehensive presentation of the WCC, so that the specialized commission/working group members see their own programmes and concerns in the wider context.

5.3 Calendar of meetings

We are now in the process of putting together a calendar of meetings already scheduled by the WCC, by member churches and by national and regional bodies, as well as visits already known. This will reveal both gaps where little is anticipated, as well as areas which may be over-visited and thereby help in determining priority areas/countries/churches to be visited. It is assumed that most of the visits will take place during 1982. It is therefore suggested that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 1982 be designated as looking towards the Assembly.

5.4 Pool of visitors/participants

The sub-units and regional task forces have been asked to put together lists of persons related to their programmes, who can be considered a pool from which visitors can be selected as well as a list of contacts who could be helpful in the local planning process.

5.5 A "master plan"

A detailed plan will be prepared for the August meeting and for Central Committee which will include:

- countries/churches to be visited
- timetable of visits and meetings
- responsibilities of member churches and local preparation committees
- responsibilities of WCC and staff
- relationship to regional meetings and sub-unit-related pre-Assembly events
- guidelines for briefing and feedback to Assembly process
- budget and financial implications.

III. ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME AND STRUCTURE

1. We have discussed the Assembly programme and structure in light of the Central Committee guidelines in order to see how the theme would be related to the total programme of the Assembly. We have affirmed the proposals that the structure of the Assembly be simplified, that the number of topics to be discussed be limited, and that the relationship between the different groupings of participants be more clearly defined.

2. The theme should not be a motto, but an operative theme permeating the Assembly and its programme. It will be the focus of worship and Bible study, and will be presented in plenary sessions. Two or three sessions should be set aside for plenary presentations on the theme: one for a strong biblical presentation, and one or two for a comprehensive interpretation of the meaning of the theme for contemporary life, presented by a panel representative of many different backgrounds.

3. The Assembly should also give attention to three or four "major concerns" (a term we prefer to "sub-themes") which derive from the theme, rather than from the structure or work of the WCC. We are not ready to formulate specific concerns, but propose that they be elaborated and clarified through a wider process of consultation involving members of Central Committee, Commissions and Working Groups, staff and others, for further discussion at subsequent meetings of the Assembly Preparations Committee and for final phrasing

by no later than the Executive Committee meeting in February 1982. Some examples of the types of concerns we have in mind are:

Faith in Christ and life in the Church
Life in Christ and the life of the whole human family
Life in the midst of death
New life for the individual and new life in community
The quality of life and life-style today.

4. As a result of its deliberations, the Assembly would be enabled to prepare and present to the churches the results of its reflections on the theme and these concerns, its testimony to faith in "Jesus Christ - the Life of the World". (This could be the message/report of the Assembly.)

5. The other area of Assembly deliberations would be the "issues". These are matters which derive from the work of the WCC, which have been "already discussed within the WCC and the member churches and are ripe for action by the churches" (Central Committee 1980). They are not necessarily related to the theme. There would be a maximum of ten such issues to be dealt with; reports and recommendations would be expected for action by the Assembly. We have requested staff to prepare a list of issue priorities for discussion at our next meeting.

6. The work groups have a basic role to play throughout the Assembly. We foresee approximately 50 groups of ca. 25 persons each. They are the "home base" from which participants go out to other activities and groupings, and to which they return to share their insights. They can be a place for worship and Bible study as well as discussion and personal sharing. In the first phase of the Assembly programme, they will fill major blocks of time during which participants will discuss the theme and major concerns as presented in plenary. It would be desirable for participants to move directly to work groups following plenary presentations, without plenary debate.

7. After adequate work group discussion, work groups would come together in "clusters" (e.g. 6 clusters of 8-9 work groups or 200 people; 8 clusters of 6 groups or 150 people, etc.). The clusters would receive, digest and sift the results of discussion in work groups who have discussed the same major concern, for eventual contribution to the Assembly witness to the theme. (See 4 above.) In addition to the theme, each work group and each cluster would discuss one of the major concerns.

8. During the second phase of the Assembly, work groups would continue, but meet less frequently. Major blocks of time would be spent in issue groups and committees (meeting simultaneously). Approximately 200 persons would be involved

in the usual committees required for Assembly business; the others would be assigned to issue groups on the basis of preferences expressed in advance. Issue groups and committees would replace clusters during this phase, and would be different groupings of participants. Participants would be able to share their experiences of different issue groups and committees in their work groups.

9. Regarding participants, we have reviewed the categories in addition to Delegates, provided for in the WCC rules: Advisers, Fraternal Delegates, Delegated Observers, Observers and Guests. We have accepted the following estimate of participants:

Delegates	900	
Fraternal Delegates	100	
Associate member churches		
Christian Councils		
Christian organizations		
Christian World Communions		
Observers	60	
Non-member churches		
Other councils and organizations		
Advisers	90	(maximum)
Guests	50	
Retiring C.C. members (not appointed as delegates)	15	
	1,215	
Stewards	175	
Staff	150	
Coopted staff	150	
	1,690	
Accredited visitors	600 - 1,000	
Accredited press	1,000	

10. We agree that the number of Advisers should be reduced as much as possible, taking into account the Assembly programme and the need of experienced resource persons. The role and privileges of advisers need to be more clearly defined and interpreted to them and to other participants in advance.

11. We recognize that the presence of large numbers of both Accredited Visitors (for whom a special programme will be planned) and of Press could influence the style of the Assembly, and we will give further attention to this question.

12. We have welcomed the willingness of the Roman Catholic Church to send a maximum of 20 delegated Observers.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

The Assembly Preparations Committee received from the staff, and now transmit to the Executive Committee, the attached "Communication Plan", with the following comments:

1. We have affirmed the basic considerations presented as a basis for further planning. We welcome the identifying of the different audiences for whom projects are intended, and encourage the Communication Department to continue planning for the projects as listed.

2. We recognize that the WCC itself cannot ensure the wide distribution throughout the member churches that would be desirable for pre-Assembly publications, etc. We will therefore depend heavily upon "multipliers" - persons, organizations, publishers, etc., - who will be ready to translate, adapt, publish and distribute these materials to reach a wider audience.

3. We want to commend strongly the use of visual media and arts as a means of communication, and would encourage the Communication Department to explore fully these possibilities. This approach can be of especial value both in those cultures which are not primarily oriented towards verbal communication and in cultures which are becoming increasingly less literate and more visual in perception.

4. We recognize the critical issue of the use of languages at the Assembly and the need for more work on this question, especially in relation to the use of non-Western languages. We request the Language Policy Task Force and the Communication Department to bring to the next meeting of the Committee a paper on the use of languages, as well as on translation and interpretation at the Assembly. We also suggest that the possibility of more extensive use of electronic communication technology - e.g. visual display units - be explored with staff at the University of British Columbia.

5. We have felt some unease and anxiety with regard to the large number of press and media representatives estimated for Vancouver, which could change the character and style of the Assembly in ways not consistent with its purpose. We therefore ask the Communication Department to report at our next meeting on the types of persons expected in this category and the procedures and criteria for accreditation.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The 1980 Central Committee requested that a comprehensive plan for communications be prepared for presentation in August at Dresden. This preliminary report outlines the plan which will be further elaborated for the next meeting of the Committee.

A. Some first considerations

1. Communication policy-making in the WCC reflects a growing resistance towards strategies that attempt to provide something for everyone. The emphasis instead has been on a more discriminating approach that tries to recognize and respect the vast differences of interest, receptivity, background and need within our constituency, then tailor our message accordingly. This "start with the audience" approach is crucial in all the recommendations that follow. We are wary of pre-Assembly materials that try to serve too many purposes at the same time. Better to communicate a few things well to at least part of our constituency, than try to reach everyone and risk serving no one.

2. A first emphasis then should be to start with who we have and where we are. Through its publications, newsletters, periodicals and regular mailings, the WCC currently has a distribution network that puts it in regular touch with 38,200 contact points. Their addresses (where we can assume some background, interest, sympathy and commitment) are our most valuable communication resource and the Assembly preparation provides a unique chance to nurture, strengthen and sustain this existing constituency.

3. Equally true is the fact that the Assembly also provides a unique chance to not only strengthen but also widen our constituency, both inside and outside the member churches. Through bold, imaginative use of media opportunities we want that to happen, but never at the expense of the existing constituency which is itself so fragile and so short of new ecumenical resources.

To achieve this constituency-widening goal, special communication strategies should be developed, distinct from those followed for our existing constituency. Such special strategies will have to risk over-simplifying and popularising the WCC agenda. They will seize opportunities provided by the mass media to join and provoke debates, questions and controversies about the ecumenical movement, assuming no special sympathy or understanding for the cause.

Most of these public media opportunities will be provided by the Assembly itself which promises to be a "media event" in its own right, setting its own criteria of value - measured in terms of institutional openness and transparency, visual colour and symbolism, the drama and conflict potential of the debates, the prominence of speakers, guests and participants.

4. The more important function of serving our present constituency will centre more on the preparatory process than the Assembly itself. Given the importance of the pre-Assembly

visitation and consultation process and the huge communication potential that it holds, much of our production in 1981/82 should be specifically designed to equip these visitors/animators with materials they will personally introduce, explain and share, rather than producing resources designed for more "impersonal" distribution.

5. The Assembly is the great opportunity in the cycle of the Council's season to discover and develop new aesthetic expressions of the ecumenical pilgrimage. Around assemblies we find the signs and symbols, the colours and textures with which we make ecumenical descriptions for years to come. We need then to exploit every available artistic resource - art/mime/photography/dance/drama - everything that conveys the old ecumenical story in new ways. A renewed store of aesthetic statements about ecumenical action and direction will sustain both parts of the two-sided task of strengthening our existing constituency and developing a new one.

B. Planning framework

As each pre-Assembly project is conceived, we need to keep in mind certain considerations: who are we trying to reach, in what language, which medium, with what participation by the people at the receiving end? Each of these choices interact.

For example, we can choose to produce one publication in English with a four-colour cover or a shorter version without colour in two languages or a film strip, or a lecture tour or a dance group or a mimeographed brochure in ten languages or a press kit or a travelling exhibit of photos or a combination of any and all these elements. The important thing is to build this reflection into the start of any communication planning beginning with a demand for precision about the audience we seek to reach. Certain "audience categories" need to be taken into account. They do not pretend to be exhaustive or exclusive of each other but rather to require a choice about the primary target group each project is intended for.

Audience:

a. Assembly participants
b. Member church leadership
c. Member church parishes
d. Specialized interest groups
e. Church and secular media
f. Theological faculties, universities
g. Visitation process participants

Regional:

i North America
ii Canada
iii Vancouver
iv Latin America
v Asia
vi Africa
vii Middle East
viii W. Europe
ix E. Europe
x Pacific
xi Caribbean

C. Projects for 1981

1. Publications

a.	New edition of "What in the world is the WCC?"	February
b.	Popular illustrated brochure	March
c.	Press kit	June
d.	Resource material for WCC publications	ongoing
e.	Bible studies on theme	September
f.	Brief report on WCC work since Nairobi	late 1981
g.	Theological document and testimonies on theme	late 1981

2. Audio-visuals

a.	Assembly logo	February
b.	Assembly poster contest (judging by Assembly Preparations Committee Vancouver meeting)	April-October
c.	Filmstrip on WCC	late 1981

3. Events

a.	Briefing sessions at journalist gatherings	ongoing
b.	Press conferences in Vancouver, Toronto and New York	November

D. Projects for 1982

a. RISK book on Canadian church life
b. Resource kits for specialized interest groups
c. Central Committee report to Assembly (Nairobi to Vancouver)
d. Assembly handbook
e. Handbook of member churches
f. Portable photo exhibit for Canada
g. Special issues of Intervox

V. FINANCES

A. Programme of Consultation and Visitation

Central Committee in 1980 agreed that each sub-unit should reallocate a substantial portion of its regular budget for staff travel and meetings/consultations in 1982 and 1983 to finance this programme, to be made "available on a Council-wide basis, for individual or team visits, on the authority of the General Secretary".

These funds were intended to be the WCC share of the total cost of the visitation programme, and do not take into account expenses to be borne by member churches or national/regional bodies, for meetings and visits that they initiate.

In December 1980, the Officers further agreed that each sub-unit should be allowed to retain SFr 20,000 for an Officers' or Executive Group meeting in 1982 (total SFr 300,000) in addition to funds for staff travel necessary to maintain ongoing work.

The amounts that have been allocated through the budgeting process for presentation to the Finance Sub-Committee are:

1982	SFr 1,266,055
1983	SFr 1,085,630
Total	SFr 2,351,685

In view of the budgetary forecast for 1982 and 1983, these amounts will have to be reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee and Executive Committee for confirmation.

It is our understanding that these funds are intended to cover the costs of meetings organized in connection with visits and of regional preparatory meetings, as well as the costs of visitation travel. No other budget is available for this purpose.

B. Assembly

Specific budgetary proposals will be brought to the Central Committee in August, and the following therefore is only a preliminary estimate of expenditures related to the Assembly.

		Swiss Francs
1.	Assembly Preparations	
1.1	Assembly office (incl. staff and office expenses)	870,000
1.2	Meetings of preparatory committees and groups	160,000
1.3	Communications (incl. publications, audio-visual materials, events and staff travel expenses)	737,000
1.4	Contingencies	125,000
	Total	1,892,000
2.	Assembly	
2.1	Pre-Assembly youth conference	40,000
2.2	Office and general expenses related to the administration of the Assembly (incl. document production)	550,000
2.3	Travel and accommodation for staff and stewards	1,150,000
2.4	Travel subsidies	2,315,000
2.5	Miscellaneous expenses and contingencies	780,000
	Total	4,835,000
3.	Post-Assembly Expenses (to be seen in relation to 1983 and 1984 budgets)	
3.1	Assembly office (incl. staff and office expenses)	108,500
3.2	Communications (incl. film and publications)	77,000
3.3	Contingencies	18,500
	Total	204,000
	GRAND TOTAL	6,931,000

VI. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Sub-unit participation

Conversations with sub-units have helped them understand the preparatory process of visitation as a different way of communicating their agenda and concerns, rather than an unrelated programme. A clearer definition and plan for the programme of visitation and consultation including more specific information about dates, places, programmes, etc. will make it easier for the sub-units to see how their ongoing programmes are integrated in the pre-Assembly process and to plan their own participation. All sub-units are willing to cooperate, but their priorities need to be reflected in the preparatory programmes and events.

The distinction between "operational" and "relational" activities of sub-units needs further clarification in order to see how much staff time and resources can be re-directed to pre-Assembly work. It is clear, however, that an increasing amount of staff time will be required for Assembly preparations and the visitation programme. We have been discussing whether one person in each unit could be set aside for special pre-Assembly tasks, and whether each sub-unit should set aside a certain amount of staff time for these responsibilities. More specific plans will be formulated in the next few months.

The pre-Assembly process is one in which there will be certain shifts of emphasis in the style of staff work and in the usual pattern of relationships with member churches and less on specific programmes; more emphasis on regional strategy and less on sub-unit operations; more emphasis on staff representing the whole WCC when travelling rather than only one sub-unit. Staff travel will have to become part of an overall, coordinated schedule in the programme of visitation. As from now, all staff travel needs to be seen as part of the pre-Assembly process of preparation, interpretation and listening in relation to the member churches.

2. Regional Task Forces

The regional task forces, traditionally advisory staff groups, will have an enlarged mandate and function in relation to the visitation programme. With the participation of staff from each region or knowledgeable in relation to the region, they will have a major responsibility in monitoring the preparatory process in relation to their region. They are now involved in discussing a number of related questions in relation to the planning for the programme of visitation:

- What steps should be taken to follow-up with member churches the general invitation to participate in this process?

- What are the particular areas or countries within the region that need special attention?

- What are the specific times or meetings which will take place in the region which should have primary attention?

- What are the particular regional issues that should be focal?

- Who are the key people in the region that should be involved?

- What special preparatory meetings should be scheduled, when and where, and how would they be financed?

- Which staff person or persons could take special responsibility for the work in the region?

Plans are being discussed in the regional staff task forces and only some preliminary indications are available at this time. All task forces will follow-up the general invitation to participate in the visitation programme by personal contact with member churches, individuals and constituency groups. It is proposed that special time be set aside during the Central Committee meeting, August 1981, for regional meetings to discuss pre-Assembly plans and preparation.

Regional task forces will also play an important role in helping plan travel to the regions as part of the visitation programme and coordinating the feedback from visits.

3. Other staff responsibilities

The Orthodox Task Force has accepted responsibility for facilitating visits to Orthodox churches, Orthodox contributions to preparatory documents and pre-Assembly studies, Orthodox participation in the preparatory process, etc.

As Assembly planning goes forward, other staff will need to be assigned specific responsibilities in relation to worship, Bible studies, Assembly programme, etc.

VII. PROPOSALS FOR MEETINGS IN 1982

In line with the policy established by the Central Committee that no meetings or consultations be held in 1982, the Officers had referred a number of proposals for meetings that had been developed by various sub-units to the Assembly Preparations Committee for consideration in the light of the process of Assembly preparation and for recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Assembly Preparations Committee was unable to discuss the issues involved in detail. It has therefore limited its reaction

to the expression of an opinion, emphasising a number of basic concerns.

In making a final decision on these proposals, the Executive Committee should keep in mind that the process of Assembly preparation

- will make a heavy demand on staff and financial resources;

- will require staff to work together across sub-unit lines;

- should serve the direct encounter with member churches through visits and regional consultations.

It is clear that a number of special meetings may be needed to prepare for "issue-groups" at the Assembly. This will require sub-unit initiatives following an outline to be presented to the Central Committee in August 1981. At this stage no definite commitments should be made.

In the light of these considerations, the Assembly Preparations Committee could see good reasons for accepting the proposal by PCR for holding a consultation on the Churches' Involvement in South Africa, and by Faith and Order for a small consultation on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry texts. The consultation proposed by CCPD on the Orthodox contribution to the Search for Justice, and by Faith and Order on the Significance and Contribution of Councils in the Ecumenical Movement, should be accepted only after review of scope and timing. The Assembly Preparations Committee was not convinced, however, of the rationale for the World Conference on Diakonia proposed by CICARWS, or the regional workshops on Racism in Education planned by PCR in cooperation with the Education sub-unit as necessary elements in the process of Assembly preparation.

VIII. CANADIAN AND VANCOUVER COMMITTEES

1. Dr. Wallace, moderator of the Canadian National Coordinating Committee for the Assembly, reported on its work and on that of the Vancouver Planning Committee for local arrangements. The Vancouver Committee had submitted a report on its work to our Committee and to the National Committee, which also asked for guidance on several matters.

2. It was reported that the National and the Vancouver Committees will fund and staff an Assembly office in Vancouver, starting probably sometime in 1981.

3. The Assembly Preparations Committee encouraged the staff to clarify, together with Archbishop Scott and Dr. Wallace, the questions of relationships and responsibilities in planning that had been raised by the Vancouver Committee. They were further requested to work out with the Vancouver and

National Committees criteria for screening and approval of outside groups wishing to organise activities and programmes parallel to the Assembly, and procedures for providing adequate security protection for Assembly participants and activities.

4. The Committee received a report on tentative plans being made by the Vancouver Committee (following encouragement from Central Committee) for a public event to take the form of worship/celebration on Sunday afternoon, 24 July, the opening day of the Assembly. Concern was expressed as to whether the Assembly should open with a public event (15,000 persons expected), or whether it should open with its own worship service. The four members of the Committee who are also members of the Executive Committee were asked to consult further during the Executive Committee meeting with the Moderator in order to agree on the response to be made to the Vancouver Committee. Whatever the form of the opening day's event, it was agreed that participants should plan to arrive in Vancouver on Saturday, 23 July.

* The text of Document no. 2 is contained in paragraphs A, B, C and D of the Report of the Assembly Preparations Committee on pages 62-65.

APPENDIX IV

1981 BUDGET IN SWISS FRANCS (AS MODIFIED)

Budget Entity	Total approved expense budget	Required transfers from CCT	Required transfers from fund balances
General Secretariat	1.138.690	1.138.690	
New York Office	145.000	145.000	
Conference Secretary	295	295	
O I C D	234.365	365	
WCC Governing Bodies	439.000	-	
Library	- 735	- 735	
Faith & Order	1.010.015	650.575	- 95.000
- Community Women & Men	550.259	-	
C W M E	2.086.079	-	- 187.955
- World Conference	-	-	
D F I	716.410	276.410	
Church & Society	481.435	292.435	
- Energy for my Neighbour	258.000	-	
Unit I - General	4.000	4.000	
CICARWS	8.148.795	-	
Unit II - Service Programme	326.760	-	+ 496.580
C C I A	1.083.295	-	- 702.664
P C R	785.935	-	- 99.583
C C P D	1.890.415	-	
C M C	1.216.663	-	- 347.870
Renewal & Congregational Life	487.520	278.745	
Youth	564.850	170.250	
Women	471.540	117.290	
Education incl. Scholarships	2.144.755	-	- 98.565

Budget Entity	Total approved expense budget	Required transfers from CCT	Required transfers from fund balances
P T E	1.640.825	-	- 79.585
Unit III - General	10.000	10.000	
Communication	3.986.590	2.470.720	
Ecumenical Institute, Bossey	1.846.100	172.800	
Finance	195.200	-	
Business Office	4.568	- 432	+ 4.562
Upkeep	6.325 *	- 1.175	+ 10.899
Mail & Telephone	-	-	+ 16.704
Cyclostyle	-	-	- 61.413
Economat	-	-	+ 645
Personnel Office	- 9.975	- 9.975	
SUB-TOTAL	31.862.974	5.715.258	- 1.143.245
General Reserve	100.000	100.000	
Assembly Reserve	100.000	100.000	
Contingencies	100.000	100.000	
SUB-TOTAL	32.162.974	6.015.258	- 1.143.245
./. Internal Transfers	2.152.697	-	
T O T A L	30.010.277	6.015.258	- 1.143.245
Non-designated income		5.300.000	
Shortfall		715.258	

* plus depreciation of building 280.000